



System 636[®] Common Venting

Answers to frequently asked questions

What is Common Venting?

Common venting allows multiple gas appliances (such as water heaters) of the same brand, model and manufacturer to share a single gas vent exhaust and fresh air intake, provided the appliance manufacturer (OEM) specifies it in their installation guide.

Recent changes to the CSA B149.1 Natural Gas and Propane Installation Code enable IPEX to introduce System 636[®] Common Venting to Canada, available in both PVC and CPVC materials depending on the temperature requirement.

System 636 Common Venting saves on design and installation time, reduces material costs, and preserves building structural integrity and aesthetics by reducing the number of terminations.

Are there special tools or procedures needed for installation?

System 636 Common Venting requires no special tools: just the standard System 636 tools specified in the Installation Methods booklet, found at ipexna.com to cut and bevel the pipe to ensure a properly solvent-welded joint.

The System 636 Installation Methods booklet found at ipexna.com takes you step by step through the process.

Also, it's important to understand the space in which your appliances are being installed. Learn more in both the System 636 Installation Methods booklet, and the appliance manufacturer installation guide.

What is unique about the IPEX System 636 Common Venting Solution?

System 636 Common Venting includes two unique fittings:

- A backflow valve with a self-draining condensate system which does not require priming. This ensures that carbon monoxide is not able to escape through the non-operating appliance. The back flow valve is designed with an inspection port, allowing for easy inspection of internal components.
- A cleanout with condensate drain that provides access to the exhaust for inspection and cleaning.

What is a Backflow Valve?

A backflow valve is a device used in common venting of positive pressure condensing appliances to prevent the exhaust gas from active appliances, sharing the system, flowing back into the vent of dormant or idling appliance(s).



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a complete venting system

Is the System 636 backflow valve approved for installation in common vent configurations?

The System 636 backflow valve must be listed as an approved option within the appliance manufacturer's installation guide prior to installation. Please reference the appliance manufacturers installation guide for approvals prior to installation.

Which appliance manufacturers will be certifying the Common Venting system?

Consult the appliance manufacturer's installation guide for approvals and vent specifications.

What are the benefits of Common Venting?

Common venting can reduce installation costs, provide flexibility for space limitations, and address any clearance termination obstacles. In addition, common venting may provide the contractor with additional flexibility by allowing longer vent runs in comparison to direct venting individual appliances. Please consult the appliance manufacturers installation guide for the allowed vent length.

Can all water heaters be common vented?

No. Appliance manufacturers must specify if their appliances can be common vented. Consult the appliance manufacturer's installation guide for approvals and vent specifications.

Is it possible to combine different types of water heaters for common venting?

No. All appliances sharing the vent must be of the same type and model and from the same manufacturer. There can be no mixing of brands and types of appliances.

How do you terminate a common vent system?

Common vent systems can be terminated through the roof or side wall and, must follow the requirements listed in the appliance manufacturers installation guide. IPEX will offer a dedicated 90° and 45° termination elbows equipped with a vent screen for common vent terminations.

If I want to learn more, will IPEX provide any educational resources?

Yes. IPEX provides training for individuals wanting to learn more about common venting. Contact us for details.



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