## Sciecucirclinc Alerti

## Important information about Ceiling Exhaust Fans:

Ceiling exhaust fans in bathrooms prevent excessive steam and heat buildup. If they are not properly maintained they can cause a fire. It has been reported that fires have started from ceiling exhaust fans in bathrooms as a result of frayed wires and burned out motors.

It is recommended that the following actions be completed to enhance fire safety:

- Inspect all exhaust surface vents for dust or lint buildup at least once a month and vacuum surface as necessary.
- Inspect fan grilles and ducts for dust or lint build up every six months.
- Verify that the light bulb wattage does not exceed the recommended fixture rating.
- Check for loose, bare power wiring.
- Verify that the ceiling exhaust fan is UL listed. If it is not UL listed, it should be replaced with a UL listed fan.
- When cleaning and checking the fans or filters, listen to the fan. If there appears to be excessive noise or it is louder than normal it could indicate that the motor is overloaded. The unit should be taken out of service and closely examined to determine if replacement is indicated.

It is also important to ensure that ceiling exhaust fans are operating at the specified manufacturers' capacity to prevent other problems from occurring.



Statewide Committee on Incident Review (SCIR)

NYS Office for People With Developmental Disabilities 44 Holland Avenue Albany, NY 12229

scir.opwdd@opwdd.ny.gov

OPWDD Information Line: 1-866-946-9733