

**NC Department of Insurance  
Office of the State Fire Marshal - Engineering Division  
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**Return Air Intake Requirements for Multi-story Dwelling Unit**

**Code:** 2012 Mechanical Code

**Date:** September 1, 2011

**Section:** 603.18

**Question:**

Are separate return air intakes required on each level of a two story dwelling unit?

**Answer:**

Yes. Section 603.18 requires that at least one return be installed on each level of a multi-level structure for a non-engineered system design. An engineered system design would require design by an engineer licensed to practice engineering in North Carolina.