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The Quietest Bathroom Fans in the World

Field studies and homeowner interviews have repeatedly shown that ventilation systems of all kinds -- and bathroom fans in particular -- are often turned off or disconnected because they're too noisy. That, in turn, leads to moisture and indoor air quality problems that could have been avoided.

Some fan manufacturers have invested heavily to design and build new exhaust fans that are amazingly quiet. Table 5 lists some of the quietest bathroom exhaust fans in the world, categorized according to their ability to move air. Obviously, quietness is not the only important criteria in selecting bathroom exhaust fans, but a quiet motor, bearings, and blade may also reflect well on other performance metrics such as energy efficiency and longevity.

The cfm and sone ratings presented here were gleaned from the new *Certified Home Ventilating Products Directory*, published by the Home Ventilating Institute (HVI), which certifies their accuracy. All of the fan ratings are based on independent tests performed at Air Movement and Control Association International's laboratory. Each fan was tested under specific air resistance and other conditions related to actual application, as distinct from "free air" or other nonstandard conditions.

The listings in Table 5 are not intended to be comprehensive, as some HVI manufacturer-members choose not to have sone ratings listed for their products, while other fan manufacturers are not members of HVI.

**Table 5 – Best Sone Ratings for Bathroom Exhaust Fans
with Air Delivery Capacities from 50 to 110 cfm**

50-60 cfm		80-90 cfm		100-110 cfm	
Model and cfm	Sone ¹ Rating	Model and cfm	Sone ¹ Rating	Model and cfm	Sone ¹ Rating
Panasonic FV-05VQ2 60 cfm	<0.3	Panasonic FV-08VQ2 90 cfm	0.7	Zonex GM120 110 cfm	1.5
Broan-Nutone S50U 50 cfm	0.5	Broan--Nutone S80UE 80 cfm	0.7	Broan-Nutone S110FLUE 110 cfm	1.5
Nuvent SS50 50 cfm	0.7	Nuvent SS80 80 cfm	1.0	Nuvent SS10025 110 cfm	1.5
Broan-Nutone LS-50 50 cfm	0.7	Broan-Nutone S80U 80 cfm	1.0	Panasonic FV-11VQ2 110 cfm	1.5
Broan-Nutone HD-50 50 cfm	1.5	Nuvent SH80L 80 cfm	1.2	Broan-Nutone S110LU 110 cfm	2.0
Air-King BFQ 50 50 cfm	2.0	Reversomatic Heating and Manufacturing QCF-95 80 cfm	1.5	Marley 7100 100 cfm	2.5
Nuvent MS50L 50 cfm	2.0	Air King AK80-1 80 cfm	1.5	Air-King AK100L 100 cfm	2.5
Reversomatic Heating and Manufacturing QB-80 60 cfm	2.0	Universal Metal Industries VQT90 90 cfm	2.0	Reversomatic Heating and Manufacturing QB-100S 100 cfm	2.5
Marley MM648 60 cfm	3.5	Broan-Nutone DX 90 90 cfm	2.5		