



Live Smart. Live Green. Live Well.

Keep green in your pocket and on the planet while adding comfort at home.

Selecting a Room Air Conditioner

Room air conditioners or “window units” only cool the room you are in; not your entire house. In doing so, these units cost less to operate than central air conditioning however they aren’t generally as efficient. Room air conditioners also allow you to switch it on or off as needed providing some zone (local) control. Another advantage is there are no cooling losses associated with duct work often seen with central AC units.

Select the Right Size Room Air Conditioner for Your Needs

Sizing and selecting your room air conditioner properly is critical to having the lowest cooling costs while maximizing comfort. A bigger unit is not better. Units that are too large may not operate long enough per cooling cycle to remove humidity from the air. A unit that is too small will not be able to provide sufficient cooling.

Determine the square footage of the area to be cooled

To find the correct unit size, use the chart below. For the square footage on the left, the cooling capacity on the right is needed to provide comfort and efficiency. Use the square footage and chart below to determine the cooling capacity needed.

Area To Be Cooled (square feet)	Capacity Needed (BTUs* per hour)
100 to 150	5,000
150 to 250	6,000
250 to 300	7,000
300 to 350	8,000
350 to 400	9,000
400 to 450	10,000
450 to 550	12,000
550 to 700	14,000
700 to 1,000	18,000
1,000 to 1,200	21,000
1,200 to 1,400	23,000
1,400 to 1,500	24,000
1,500 to 2,000	30,000
2,000 to 2,500	34,000

*BTU stands for British Thermal Unit. Chart courtesy of energystar.gov

Other factors to consider that affect capacity

- Is the room very sunny? If so, increase capacity by 10 percent.
- Will the room regularly have more than two people in it? If so, add 600 BTUs for each additional person.
- Is this unit to be used in the kitchen? If so, increase capacity by 4,000 BTUs.

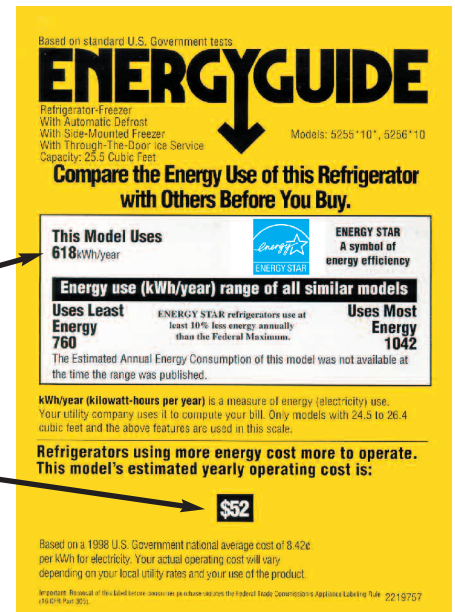
Other Purchasing Considerations

Note the voltage. Most small units can use a standard 115-volt branch unit circuit that doesn't have another major appliance on it. Large room units many need a special 230 volt circuit. Select the ENERGYSTAR® rated unit with the highest Energy Efficiency Ratio (EER). At a minimum, the Department of Energy recommends an EER of 10.0 or above for maximum savings. Check the yellow EnergyGuide label on the unit you are considering for this information.

Select a unit that has an easily accessible filter, logically arranged controls with a digital readout thermostat setting and a built-in timer.

1 = Estimated energy consumption on a scale showing a range for similar models

2 = Estimated yearly operating cost based on the national average cost of electricity.



Proper Installation

- Install the unit in a shaded spot on your home's north or east side, if possible.
- Avoid placing appliances that give off heat near the unit. Doing so will generate false readings on the unit's thermostat.
- Make sure you properly seal the window or wall where the unit is installed so that you don't lose conditioned air.
- Be careful where the condensate drain hose for the unit is located and therefore where the water will travel when the unit is in operation. Avoid allowing it to drip on the wall or windowsill.
- Seal leaks. Reducing the heat that gets into your home will save money spent on cooling costs. Read the Do-It-Yourself Guide to Home Sealing for more details on energystar.gov.

Staying Cool, Spending Less

- Set your unit's thermostat as high as possible in the summer.
- Set the fan speed on high except on very humid days. A lower fan speed removes more moisture from the air on a humid day making your room feel more comfortable.
- Use an interior fan to help you feel 3 to 5 degrees cooler than the thermostat setting. A fan will also move cooled air more throughout the room. When no one is in the room, turn off the fan.

For more information visit the conservation section of our website at jea.com or contact us via email at conservation@jea.com