



RESIDENTIAL AIR CLEANER PURCHASING GUIDELINES & CONSIDERATIONS

Air cleaners or purifiers can effectively remove many air contaminants, including viruses and smoke which is a great idea during the COVID-19 pandemic and wildfire season in the Pacific Northwest.

FUNCTION AND FILTER

Air cleaners are used to filter the air for different contaminants. Most units filter for particles OR gases; although you can find units that will filter for both. To reduce gases and odors, look for a thick activated charcoal filter.

Recommended: **“true” High Efficiency Particulate Air or HEPA filter** are most efficient tested and certified to meet the highest standard, filtering a wide variety of contaminants including wildfire and tobacco smoke as well as most viruses. There are 6 different types, A-F, that range in efficiency from 99.97%-99.999%.



Medium Room

Large Room

Extra-Large Room



SIZE

Air cleaners are designed to work in rooms, not whole houses. Consider the size of the room in which the unit that is designed. For example, you might buy a unit designed to filter up to 700 sq. foot room for a bedroom and a larger unit designed to filter up to 1500 sq. feet in a living room.

CARE AND MAINTENANCE

The life of a filter (how often it needs to be changed out). Most manufacturers recommend checking filters every six months and replacing them annually, but some last as long as 5 years!



AVOID OZONE GENERATING UNITS

Ozone is a lung irritant and strictly regulated pollutant. **Never use any ozone generators in occupied spaces.** The California Air Resources Board maintains a list of units that emit very little to no ozone (see link below).

RESIDENTIAL BRANDS TO CONSIDER

Keep in mind a lot of brands have several units that serve different functions and are designed for different sized rooms and equipped with different filtration systems. (AIRMEGA, COWAY, AUSTIN AIR, HONEYWELL, BLUEAIR)

WEB LINK

Resources and References:

- EPA. (2020). Air Cleaners & Air Filters in the Home. <https://www.epa.gov/indoor-air-quality-iaq/air-cleaners-and-air-filters-home-0>
- California Air Resources Board. <https://ww2.arb.ca.gov/our-work/programs/air-cleaners-ozone-products/california-certified-air-cleaning-devices>
- National Air Filtration Association. (2020). “How many Types of HEPA Filters Are There? <https://www.nafahq.org/how-many-types-of-hepa-filters-are-there/>