

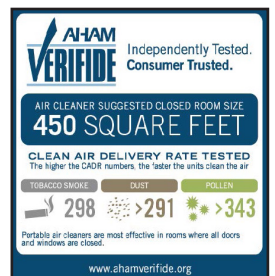
HOW TO CHOOSE A PORTABLE AIR CLEANER

May, 2025



Before buying an air cleaner, here are some important things to check:

- **Filter costs and availability:** Replacement filters can be expensive or hard to find for some models. Make sure you can easily get new filters when needed.
- **HEPA air filter:** This filter removes tiny particles, like those found in wildfire smoke.
- **Activated carbon filter if possible:** Helps reduce some harmful gases and odours.
- **AHAM certified:** This means the air cleaner has been tested by the Association of Home Appliance Manufacturers.
- **Right size for the room:** Check the label to see the largest room size it can clean. You might need more than one for big spaces.
- **No ozone:** Some air cleaners can create ozone, which can irritate your lungs. Avoid models that use ionizers or electrostatic features unless they're certified for low ozone by the [California Air Resources Board](#).
- **ENERGY STAR rated:** These models use less electricity and are more energy-efficient.
- 📄 **Where to buy:** You can find air cleaners at hardware stores, pharmacies, or online.



DIY Air Cleaner Option: You can also make your own air cleaner using a box fan and a good-quality filter. It's cheaper, works well, and materials are available at most hardware stores. Check out the [BC Lung BREATHE Project](#) to learn how to make one.

More information? Visit www.vch.ca/wildfire-smoke
Questions? Contact healthy.environments@vch.ca

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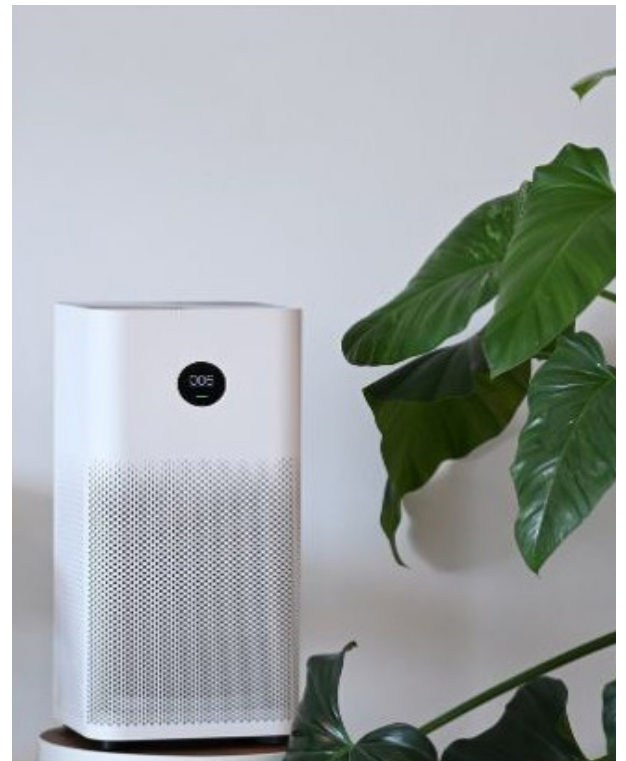
HOW TO USE A PORTABLE AIR CLEANER

May, 2025



When using a portable air cleaner, follow these tips:

- **Use it where people are:** Place the air cleaner in the rooms where you spend the most time.
- **Give it space:** Don't block the airflow with furniture, curtains, or walls.
- **Turn it on:** Run the air cleaner when you are home and there is wildfire smoke in your community. At other times you may want to turn it on to help with allergies or other indoor air pollutants such as those from cooking.
- **Close windows and doors:** Air cleaners work best when the room is sealed. Make sure the room doesn't get too hot.
- **Use a high setting:** Run it on the highest setting you can. If it's too noisy, turn it down.
- **Change filters regularly:** Always follow the manufacturer's directions about when to replace filters. Don't clean the air filters unless they are reusable and meant to be cleaned as outlined by the manufacturer.



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