**PORTABLE AIR CONDITIONERS**

They are often called monobloc, self-contained, or one-piece air conditioning systems. They usually have wheels on the bottom so that you can easily move them between rooms.

These units are ideal for cooling one room and standing on the floor. They have an attached hose that leads out through a nearby window. If installing a permanent air conditioner is not possible due to limited space or building restrictions, a portable air conditioner is a great option.

Portable models remove hot air from the room and throw it outside using a hose. A reliable unit will cool the room you are in but don't expect it to cool the hallway or other rooms.

Condensate water collects in the water tank, so from time to time you will need to manually remove the water and clean the filter.

*Advantages of portable air conditioners*

* Usually cost less than split air conditioning systems.
* Able to cool the premises without the need to install permanent equipment.
* The device can be easily detached and stored when not in use.
* Prestige models often include functions of dehumidification, heating, or even air purification.

*Disadvantages of portable air conditioners*

* Less efficient than split systems when cooling the room.
* Putting a hose through an open window can allow warm air to seep back through the gap. Most models come with a kit to seal this gap, but this is only effective for certain types of windows.
* Usually these are heavy and bulky devices. If you are not strong enough or live alone, you may need help with installation.

**SPLIT BLOCKS OF AIR CONDITIONERS**

Also known as stationary air conditioning systems, they consist of two main components: an outdoor condensing unit and an indoor evaporator. Both parts need to be connected, so the installation process is much more complicated than with the portable model.

These systems are quieter and more efficient than portable models, but they are usually installed stationary in only one room. If you've chosen a split air conditioning system, you'll need a specialist to set it up - it should be noted that installers are usually busy in the summer.

The outdoor unit is equipped with a compressor that circulates the refrigerant and converts it from a gaseous state to a liquid state. This liquid passes through the cooling lines to the internal evaporator, where it turns back into a gas. Heat is taken from the surrounding air, and cooled air enters the room.

After that, the outdoor unit turns the gaseous refrigerant into liquid again. This process is repeated until the device reaches the temperature you set.

*Advantages of split air conditioning systems*

* Perfect if you have one room that often gets too hot.
* A reliable way to air-condition your home as there is no need to leave the windows open.
* Quieter and usually more efficient than portable air conditioners.

*Disadvantages of split air conditioning systems*

* Usually more expensive than stand-alone portable models - expect to spend £500 and up excluding installation costs.
* Fixed in place, so it cannot be moved between rooms.
* It must be permanently installed on an exterior wall with the help of a certified professional, which may require structural work in your home.

**The best characteristics of the air conditioner that you should pay attention to**

1. **DRYER MODE**

Some models of air conditioners perform the function of a dehumidifier, which makes them useful throughout the year, not just in summer. However, if you mainly use this function, it is recommended to purchase a dedicated dehumidifier.

Some models of air conditioners/dehumidifiers require a hose connection (which may not be included) to drain the water. Others require you to set the unit in air conditioning mode by pulling the hose out through an open window.

1. **FAN SPEED**

Having different fan speed settings is useful because it affects how quickly the room cools (and how quiet the air conditioner makes). Most models have three levels of fan speed, and some also offer a ventilation-only mode, which does not provide cooling, but simply circulates the air in the room.

We don't recommend buying an air conditioner primarily for its fan function, as you can save a lot of money and space by buying a simple fan instead.

1. **REMOTE CONTROL**

It's useful to be able to adjust settings without leaving your seat. When we consider an air conditioner with smart features, we also pay attention to its level of privacy and security.

1. **HEATING MODE**

Some air conditioners can also be used as an electric heater, which can be very convenient in the winter.

1. **SLEEP OR NIGHT MODE**

This allows you to reduce the noise due to the slow operation of the compressor and the fan. Often, the target temperature is automatically raised during the night, so you don't wake up in the cold.

But no air conditioner can work completely silently, even in sleep mode. It's better to pre-cool the room before going to bed than trying to sleep with the air conditioner running.

1. **TIMER**

This allows you to set the machine to turn on and off automatically, which is handy if you want to return to a cool house or save energy by turning off the unit when you fall asleep. Choose an air conditioner with a clock and a 24-hour operating mode. Some only have countdown timers or delays that need to be reset daily.

**WHAT SIZE AIR CONDITIONER DO I NEED?**

They can come in many shapes and sizes but are often described in terms of wattage, measured in British Thermal Units (BTU).

In theory, the higher the BTU level, the more efficiently they can cool the room. Typically, 5,000 to 8,000 BTUs are sufficient for most living rooms or bedrooms. Use this calculation to determine what BTU level you need:

Multiply the dimensions of the room (in feet) by five. For example, for a room measuring 15 feet by 10 feet by 8 feet, you would calculate 15 x 10 x 8 x 5 = 6,000 BTUs of air conditioning.

If you are interested in the energy consumption of an air conditioner, look for a model with a high energy efficiency ratio (EER). This is the ratio between the air conditioner's BTUs and its power consumption (in watts). Generally, the higher the EER rating, the more efficient the device.

It is also worth paying attention to the declared energy consumption class. Air conditioner manufacturers are required to self-certify their energy consumption class from A to G. However, their expert tests are carried out according to the European standard BS EN 14511:2013, and it is often found that the declared energy consumption class may differ from the actual one.