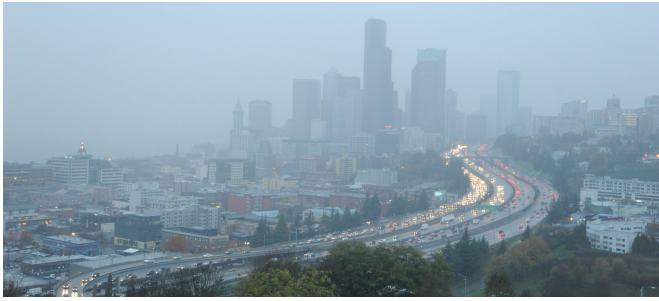


USING A HEPA AIR PURIFIER



Your Air Purification Program

Using a HEPA air purifier goes beyond buying a unit and plugging it in. You need to know how to use and maintain it in order to keep it working effectively. You can think of this as your overall air purification program.

When buying a HEPA air purifier look for:

- The correct Clean Air Delivery Rate (CADR) for the room, whether you buy one or more units for the space. Be sure to measure first.
- AHAM certification, meaning that an independent lab has verified the unit works as well as the manufacturer claims it does.
- CARB-certified units that are certified to not release high levels of ozone that would harm asthmatics.



When using your air purifier try to:

- Place it away from walls to allow for air circulation.
- If it must be near a wall, make sure it's at least the length of an average cell phone away.
- Place it as close to the breathing space of the people in the room as possible.
- Turn the unit on an hour before people will be in the room.
- Keep windows and doors closed while it's on.



Filter cleaning and replacement:

Proper maintenance will extend the lifespan of your purifier and increase its effectiveness. To keep your purifier at its best:

- Check the manufacturer's guidelines to find out how often to clean and replace your filters.
- Also check regularly for build up of dust and other particles
- Expect to vacuum the pre-filter and wipe down the exterior with antibacterial wipes as often as every two weeks.
- In general, filters will likely need to be replaced every three to 12 months.
- Consider creating calendar reminders to ensure that filters are cleaned and changed as needed.

For more information visit:
deohs.washington.edu/healthy_schools

WEDGE | ENVIRONMENTAL
& OCCUPATIONAL
HEALTH SCIENCES

Date published: 2023 Supported by NIEHS grant # P30ES007033