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Electra air conditioner orange light

If you've been feeling the heat a bit too much this summer, friends at the Wirecutter have put together a guide for finding the perfect air conditioner, so you can keep cool and comfortable this year. The air conditioner you use depends completely on the space you're trying to cool, among other things. They say the most important things to look for are:How many decibels an air conditioner generates when it's running is an import factor to consider, especially for anyone planning on installing it in their bedroom or living room. If you can't sleep or hear your TV for the noise your air conditioner makes, you're trading one kind of discomfort for another.You'll likely want it to have digital controls too. Going digital allows for a number of useful features a remote control and an adjustable timer for turning your air conditioning off in the morning after you've gone to work and back on in time to cool your home before you return home at the end of the day.Airflow control's important-especially in small spaces like a bedroom. Not being able to stop cold air from blowing on your face while you're trying to sleep sucks.Finally, to save money and the environment, you'll want your air conditioner to be Energy Star compliant.They have a number of different recommendations for the "best" air conditioner models, depending on your type of room, so I highly recommend checking out their full article below—especially if you're one of the unlucky ones in 100-plus degree heat right now. Of course, if you don't want to spring for a full air conditioner, you can try one of these effective DIY alternatives, too.If you don't have an air conditioner and can't take the heat (or you just don't feel like running...Read moreGreat Air Conditioners | The Wirecutter When the weather starts to heat up, most people turn their thoughts to staying cool. If you don't have central air conditioning, room air conditioners are still an energy-efficient, low-cost alternative to cool the rooms in your house that you spend the most time in.With more than 6.5 million models sold each year, air conditioners are one of the most common household appliances. According to Energy Star, cooling costs account for approximately 13% of household utility bills, which means choosing the right unit is crucial. An air conditioner that is too small for the size of the room won't cool effectively. But an air conditioner that's too big can leave your space frigid and uncomfortable.Consider the following when purchasing an air conditioner:The noise. Air conditioners have come a long way in the noise department in recent years. Among the quietest models, all you will hear is the gentle whirr of a fan. Air conditioners that score low for noise will be loud enough on low to disturb you if you're a light sleeper, and distracting when set to high.Window location. Window air conditioners tend to blow air in a single direction—which can be a problem if your window is off-centered. To be able to cool a room, the air needs to hit the middle. It's possible to find models that blow air to the left or the right. Other models have swiveling fans.Proper installation. Quite a few air conditioning units are intended for double-hung windows. If your windows are not double-hung, consider another style of air conditioner. Your window unit must also be level enough for the unit to drain properly. Electronic devices that generate heat should be located away from the air conditioner.Filter location. Make sure the filter is easily accessible. You will need to clean it regularly to keep your air conditioner working well.Intelligent features. The latest air conditioning models can be controlled and adjusted with only a smartphone. They may also be connected to other temperature control units in your home. This can allow you to save energy and minimize the cost of your bill.Warranty. Check with the manufacturer or ask the retailer about the warranty offered on the unit. A longer warranty will guarantee that your air conditioner can be used for years to come.Start by choosing the space you would like to cool and identifying where you will install the unit. Window air conditioners have varying cooling capacities, which may range from 5,000-12,500 British thermal units (Btu). You can figure out the amount of cooling capacity you need by allotting 20 Btu for every square foot of your room. If your room is 400 square feet, you will need an air conditioner with approximately 8,000 Btu.However, it's important to take other factors into consideration. If you have a high ceiling, for instance, you might need a slightly higher cooling capacity. Additionally, if your window is not in the center of the room or your space is unusually sunny for most of the day, you may want to purchase an air conditioner with slightly higher capacity. These are free-standing, easy to move air conditioners that you can move from room to room. Because they need to vent hot air somewhere else, portable air conditioners are generally set up in windows and come with their own window kit. These are ideal for people who live in small spaces and/or only use air conditioning sporadically. They can be the most cost-efficient option since they only cool off one particular area instead of the entire home space. Some options even work double-duty by including heat so you can use it year-round.WindowTraditionally found in college apartments and dorm rooms, today's window air conditioners are energy efficient, quiet and overall easy on the eyes. They can be installed in any room with a window that leads to the outside and works by filtering hot air from inside outside through the window. Window air conditioners tend to feature a fan option, heater and programmable timer. They are an efficient and economical option for small spaces.WallWall air conditioners look similar to window units with the exception that they are mounted on an outdoor wall and therefore filter hot air outside through the wall instead of a window. They tend to be more energy-efficient than window units because they create an airtight seal that keeps hot air outside. One main difference is that these units are actually built into the wall, whereas window units can be installed and taken down. They are therefore a more permanent option than window units.Ductless mini-splitUnlike portable, window or through the wall units, the ductless mini-split model is not an actual unit that can be installed in one room or another. They are capable of cooling more than one room at a time, similar to central units, but they don't require ductwork. They are made up of two main parts: a large condenser unit that needs to be installed outside and one (or more) compact blower units that can be mounted on the wall or ceiling. These mounted units are placed strategically inside the rooms or zones you want and can be controlled separately, so you can only cool the spaces you are using to save energy costs.CentralCentral air conditioning units are popular for homeowners who need to cool several rooms at the same time. These systems are fully ducted, making them a more expensive option than portable or split units but can be the best choice overall for larger homes. They work by first extracting warm air from all over your house to cool at a central point and then distributing that cool air to your house through a series of vents and ducts. The hot air is then filtered outside.Packaged Terminal Air Conditioner (PTAC)Commonly found in hotel and motel rooms, senior living facilities, hospitals, condominiums and apartment buildings, PTACs are an all-in-one air conditioner/heating unit. They are commonly installed in walls and windows. PeopleImages / Getty Images Natural light can help reduce your lighting costs, but when no one is in a room, it's best to keep the curtains closed during the day. It is especially true for houses with windows facing east and west. Keeping direct sunlight from entering the house helps to reduce the amount of work your air conditioner has to do. To maximize cooling, open the drapes, blinds or curtains in the evening to allow heat to escape through the windows.

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