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Commercial cool window air conditioner installation

Photo Courtesy: LG Let's be honest— in hot, humid weather, it doesn't take long to feel like you're trapped in a sauna, and you'll do almost anything to get some relief. The COVID-19 outbreak and resulting quarantine reminded us all that it's not pleasant to be stuck at home without a reliable way to stay cool and comfortable. If you don't have central air conditioning or a window air conditioner (AC), a portable AC can solve your need to cool down in an instant. The best part is you can easily move one of these units from room to room, allowing you to cool off anywhere in your home, from your bedroom to your home office. Fortunately, several excellent options on the market are designed to fit everyone's different needs. Whether you're trying to beat the heat on a budget or keep a large room cold, these portable ACs can help you stay cool.Important Notes to Know Before Installing Your Portable Air ConditionerThe first time you install a portable AC unit, the process might look tricky. However, each model has specific step-by-step instructions on how to set it up easily and successfully. The standard portable AC will need to vent through a window to kick the hot air out of the room and keep you cool. You may also need an adapter kit that secures the exhaust hose in the window. With that being said, it's best to place a unit near a window with an electrical outlet for easy operation. Photo Courtesy: JMATEK Group/YouTube Also, make sure the window adapter kit will fit on your window. If the kit doesn't fit, you may need to expand or trim it. Once you secure the window adapter kit and connect the exhaust hose that's included in the package, you'll be able to plug in the unit to have fresh, cold air in the room. If you don't have a window, another option is to vent the exhaust through a wall, ceiling or even door (but check to see if a portable air conditioner can work that way before purchasing it). For a better sense of how to install a portable AC unit, check out this video guide by Honeywell. Now, let's go shopping.Low-Cost, But Still an Incredibly Powerful Portable ACLooking for a good deal? You can spend wisely and still rest like Sleeping Beauty during hot nights with this LG Electronics 8,000 BTU Portable AC. Its price and size are small, but its performance is mighty as it blows big blasts of cold air to cool rooms up to 200 square feet. Even better, it has three impressive modes: cool mode to chill out and dehumidify, fan mode to circulate air and dry mode for those extra-wet days. Photo Courtesy: Home Depot Find the right setting for your personal enjoyment by changing the temperature, fan speed, cooling speed and timer. Too comfortable to get up to adjust the AC? No problem. Use the handy remote control to get the job done (even all the way from across the room). Plus, its installation kit and hose make setting up this unit a breeze. Say goodbye to waking up in a sweat. With this AC, you can stay cool, comfortable and in control at an unbeatable price.This Eco-Friendly Portable AC Helps Save the EnvironmentIf you're living the environmentally conscious life, the Whynter Elite 14,000 BTU Portable AC was created especially for you. Going green doesn't mean you have to sacrifice quality (or your budget). Approved by Good Housekeeping and Consumer Reports, this conditioner will meet your top needs: protecting the planet and cooling your home down. It's also free of chlorofluorocarbons (CFCs) and lead. Photo Courtesy: Home Depot Besides being green, this device is easy to set up and use. If you can't get enough peace and quiet, you'll be happy to know that this AC is as quiet as the dawn. And its useful features don't stop there. The unit comes with a programmable timer, digital controls, remote and wheels for effortless mobility. Its fun size and dual-hose system make it space-friendly and fast at fighting off the heat, so you have more room to stay cool and save power all at the same time.Tackle Large Rooms with This Smart Portable ACCooling large spaces isn't easy unless you have the Frigidaire Gallery 12,000 BTU Cool Connect Smart Portable AC. It comes with a relatively big price tag — but even greater features and better operation. Designed for rooms up to 550 square feet, this unit features LED lighting and a modern mesh grille for extra style to complement any room. Photo Courtesy: Lowes Tech fans will love this part the most: It connects to your Wi-Fi, so you can control your AC anytime, anywhere. Coming back home from a hike on a hot day? Use the Frigidaire app on your smartphone to turn the unit on before you strut through the doors. It's also compatible with Google Assistant and Alexa, so you can ask them to schedule the time and day when you want them to switch on the device. The future is here, and we're ready for it.Got a Small Room? This Portable AC Was Destined for ItIf you have a small bedroom, office or apartment, your new best friend will be the Honeywell HL Series 10,000 BTU Portable AC, which cools and dehumidifies spaces up to 450 square feet. This unit handles business on hot days by combining a dehumidifying function, a three-speed fan and an auto-evaporation system. Photo Courtesy: Home Depot The full-function remote control makes it super convenient to operate the unit for those "sleep in bed all day" days. You get a lot of airflow for little effort. Plus, it's easy to move to different rooms and install if you don't want to commit it to only one place.This Portable Combo Unit Is the Perfect Double FeatureDuring the hottest days of the year, the Black + Decker 12,000 BTU Portable Air Conditioner and Heater delivers a premium cooling experience for rooms of about 250 to 300 square feet, dropping the temperature as low as 55 degrees. Even better, the combo unit earns its keep all year round with a built-in heater that takes rooms all the way up to a toasty 81 degrees, if desired. Photo Courtesy: Amazon Installation is quick and easy in any room with window access, but the unit itself sits on the floor on easy-to-move rollers for convenience. It's also easy to clean and comes with a remote control to help you perfectly control the temperature in the room. Additional Fan and Dehumidify settings give you additional climate control, making this unit worth every penny of your investment. MORE FROM CONSUMERSEARCH.COM | Activate and hold the button to confirm that you're human. Thank You! Try a different method Most portable air conditioners are easy to install. As long as you have all the components, you can do it yourself in 10-30 minutes.This guide is a step by step overview of how to install a portable AC in your room, along with answers to frequently asked questions.The most important aspects of installing a portable AC properly are its venting and drainage. Venting properly exhausts the hot air removed from your room to the outside, where it dissipates naturally. In this guide, we'll show you how to vent through the window and explain your alternatives when window venting is not possible.Drainage is the other critical thing to get right. In this guide, we explain how to drain evaporative ACs and manual drain ACs properly.NOTE: If you are still searching for a portable AC for your home, then check out our updated list of the best portable air conditioners selling right now:See our top picks for every size room and budget - with reviews, pros/cons, buying tips & more!Before you start setting up a portable AC, there are several essential safety tips you need to keep in mind:Read the manual before starting.This guide is not a substitute for your product manual. Always refer to the manufacturer's installation and usage instructions first.Portable Air Conditioners are heavy. Take Care!Do not attempt to lift one by yourself as it could cause serious injury. If you are moving it on a flat floor, check whether it has casters/wheels. In that case, you just need to push it gently.Never connect a portable AC to a power extension or a power strip.Portable ACs draw a lot of power when the compressor kicks on. Connect it to a grounded electrical outlet only.Keep children away from the unit.Kids should not play around it, hang or sit on it. It could tip and get damaged or cause serious injury.Only plug it in after you have completed the installation.Especially your exhaust and drain hoses - make sure they are air- and water-tight and that all sealants have cured.Make sure the included air filter is installed before using a portable AC.Flying debris can damage the unit. Clean your filters regularly and replace them as directed by the manufacturer.Do not attempt to repair a portable AC yourself.Take it to an HVAC technician or ask the manufacturer for guidance.A portable AC should always be placed on a hard level floor at least 8-12" away from obstructions like furniture and flowers. Check the manual for the minimum clearance space from the wall.Never place a portable AC on a desk, chair or shelf. These devices are meant to operate on the floor.Ideally, a portable air conditioner should be placed near an outside window and near an electrical outlet.Check that the power cable can reach the outlet without stretching it too far. Also, check that the vent hose can reach the window without over stretching it.Most manufacturers advise that you keep the hose as short and straight as possible. When your AC is positioned in the right place, then you are ready to start the installation. Check the components in the box against the list in the manual. Make sure that everything is included.A typical window kit will include the following:a vent hosevent hose adaptersa window slide connector.Some kits may also include screws and weather strips or foam.If anything is missing, contact the retailer immediately.The most common way to vent a portable air conditioning's hot air exhaust is through a window to the outside.If you have no external window in your room or you can't use a window (perhaps because it is a casement window), then read the next section.Window venting is actually fairly easy with the right kit. Just make sure you have all the components necessary.Step 1: Install the adjustable window kit Window kits are designed to work with most kinds of windows including those that slide to the side and slide up and down.If your window has a traditional up-down operation, then place the kit at the bottom and extend it until it fills the width of the window opening.If your window slides side-to-side, then place the kit on the one side and extend it until it fills the height of the window.If your window opening is smaller than the minimum length of the slider kit, you'll have to trim the kit down.If your window opening is larger than the maximum length of the slider kit, then you can use plywood, Plexiglas or cardboard to fill the gap. You can also buy the filler material at local hardware or home improvement store and have it cut to the precise dimensions you need.After you fit the window kit properly (no air should leak and no sunlight should be visible), then close the window to hold the slider kit in place.Some kits come with weather strips or foam to place between the slider and the window to prevent insects and warm air from getting in. Your kit may also have screws that you need to use to hold the kit more securely in place.If you want, you can buy a separate security lock to make sure the window cannot be opened from the outside.Step 2: Connect the hoseFirst, attach the vent hose to the back of the AC. Check whether there is a connector already in place on the AC. If there isn't one, then install the connector first and then attach the hose.At the other end of the hose, connect the window exhaust connector, which is usually a part of the window vent kit. Extend the hose until you connect the connector to the slider kit. Make sure it securely locks into place.You'll want your exhaust hose as linear and direct (short) between the unit and the window as possible to avoid restricting air flow, which can damage the unit or prevent it from cooling as well as it can. Some manufacturers also recommend extending the hose no more than 9 feet. The shorter and straighter the exhaust hose, the better.Step 3: Plug in the ACNow it's time to plug in your portable air conditioner.As we mention in safety tips, only use a properly grounded outlet and never connect the AC to a power strip or an extension cord.Most units have an indicator light on the plug that comes on when you connect it to an outlet. The plug should also have two buttons labeled 'RESET' and 'TEST'. Press the 'TEST' button. This activates the built-in safety feature that cuts off current in case it detects something wrong with the power flow. The indicator light and unit should turn off. Then press the RESET button to reconnect the AC.Note: Do not use these buttons to turn your AC on or off. They are meant only for periodic testing and to turn the AC on in case power is cut off. Refer to your manual for exact instructions on how to properly connect the AC to an electrical outlet.When your AC comes on after you press RESET, it's ready to use. Check your manual for instructions on how to set temperature and humidity levels. Most units come with remote control which you'll need to learn, too.Window exhaust venting is easy and convenient.But this doesn't mean you cannot enjoy your AC if you have no window or cannot use the one that's there. Here are some other alternatives:Vent through a sliding doorIf you cannot vent through a window, the next best place is to vent through a sliding door.The process of installing the vent is pretty much the same as window venting.You can use the same window slider kit, but you'll need a filler material to fill the gap that won't be covered. I recommend getting a specialized slider kit for sliding doors. It will fill up the full door height. You won't need to use any filler material.Venting through a sliding door has its challenges, however. Can you still open the door? What about security?Here's a video that provides some good suggestions.Vent through the ceilingIf the portable AC is for an office, it may not be possible to vent through the window. A drop ceiling is a good alternative.You'll need a special venting kit for a drop ceiling and may need the help of an HVAC technician. It's also important to talk to the building manager in case there are any safety or air quality issues regarding drop ceiling venting.Vent through an exterior wallIf you are in a windowless room, you can pass the vent hose through the wall.You'll need a professional to cut the right sized hole in the wall where you can secure the vent hose.Vent through the chimneyIf you don't use your chimney, that's another place you can install the vent hose,just make sure there is no soot in the chimney and that the flue is open.One of the most common complaints I hear from portable AC owners is leakage.When warm air is cooled, humidity is removed - and that means water needs to be removed over time. If you don't install a good system for doing that, the unit will leave a puddle of water on your floor.Most portable AC water leaks are caused by not sealing the drain hose correctly or when there is too much humidity in the room overwhelming the drainage capacity of your unit (or drip pan).When you buy a portable AC, know whether it is self-evaporative or requires manual draining. Each uses a different system to trap and remove condensed water from your home.Self-evaporative portable ACs exhaust water outside along with warm air, through the exhaust hose. You won't need to drain these most of the time.But sometimes, there is so much humidity in the air that the condensed water will accumulate in the AC, build up in the emergency pan and eventually leak over the top, usually near the drain plug.Some units have an indicator, usually 'FL', to tell you when the emergency drain pan is full.You are then supposed to either position the AC over a drain or connect a drain hose. Consider closing the drain plug with a cap (some units come with their cap)to prevent leakage.If yours has no indicator, just keep an eye on the floor under the unit. If you notice a bit of leakage, it's time to drain it. If you have capped the drain plug, you'll know the water collector is full when the unit stops working.Unlike evaporative cooling systems, manual drain ACs drop condensation into a drain pan (trap) which needs to be emptied somehow, or it will eventually overflow. You will either need to periodically empty water from the unit's drain pan manually or install a separate drain hose to send the water outside. In general, yes. Most do need to be vented outside - but not in all situations. If the unit uses manual draining, for example, then you do not need to vent the AC exhaust air outside if all you need it for is to dehumidify a room or in fan-only mode.For most units, venting is also unnecessary when used in fan-only mode.But whenever air cooling is needed, a portable air conditioner must be vented outside somehow. Otherwise, the warm exhaust air will blow back into the room, defeating the purpose of having an AC.As always, check your manual to see what the manufacturer recommends.What size portable air conditioner do I need for my room?The capacity of portable air conditioners is measured in BTUs.You need about 20 BTUs for every square foot of space. So if your room measures 300 square feet, a 6,000 BTU air conditioner will do.Check the room size requirements of an AC before buying it. Manufacturers will often specify the maximum size of the room you can use it in.Do portable air conditioners need a water supply?No. Portable air conditioners don't need water. They are not humidifiers. They produce water as they dehumidify the air in the room.Can you vent a portable air conditioner through a dryer vent?In most cases, no. The manufacturer may specifically warn against doing that.The reason is that a dryer vent and an air conditioner exhaust hose are usually not the same in size. There are other dangers in using a dryer vent, such as lint blowing back into the unit, which could cause a fire.If you need to use a dryer vent, then consult with an HVAC technician before attempting the installation.How can I cool a room with no windows?You can vent through a sliding door, a drop ceiling or even through an exterior wall.See the tips above for more details.

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