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## **FILTERING THROUGH THE HYPE: AIR CLEANERS ARE NOT ALL THE SAME**

**WASHINGTON, DC (May 31, 2006)**--Recent media reports have implied that all air cleaners produce unhealthy levels of ozone. This is simply not true. There are many types of air cleaning technologies available to consumers. In fact, the most popular type of portable room air cleaners, those that use only a fan and high efficiency filter to draw in and trap airborne particulates, emit no more ozone than any typical household electrical device.

Some air cleaners use processes called ionization and/or electrostatic precipitation to charge the particulates passing through the machine and collect charged particles on metal plates. This type of technology functions similar to "static cling." While products employing this process create a low level of ozone as a bi-product of ionization, the devices are not considered to be "ozone generators." Consumers may check with the manufacturers of these devices for specific ozone levels and to ensure that the unit has been tested according to the applicable safety standard, such as the Underwriters Laboratories (UL) test for ozone.

Another category of devices called ozone generators purposefully emit ozone. This type of product has received the most attention in the media for the potential adverse health effects on some people. Because of these concerns, legislation has been introduced in California which, if enacted, would ban the sale of ozone generators in the state. See the resource guide below for the link to the recommendation to ban ozone generators in California and the EPA's fact sheet on ozone generators.

AHAM does not object to legislation aimed at ozone generators, but strongly believes any regulation must distinguish these products from the many other useful, harmless products.

More information on air cleaner technologies and on AHAM's Room Air Cleaner Certification Program is available on the [www.cadr.org](http://www.cadr.org) web site. This site includes a list of manufacturers who have had their products' clean air delivery rate performance verified through a third party laboratory. These products bear the CADR seal on the front of the product packaging.

### **Resource Guide:**

- 1.) Clean Air Delivery Rate web site listing of various air filtering technologies:  
<http://www.cadr.org>
- 2.) California Air Resources Board Recommendation to Ban Ozone Generators:  
<http://www.arb.ca.gov/research/indoor/ozone.htm>.

3.) EPA Guide to Improving Indoor Air Quality:  
<http://www.epa.gov/iaq/pubs/insidest.html#IAQhome>

4.) EPA Fact Sheet on Ozone Generators: <http://www.epa.gov/iaq/pubs/ozonegen.html>

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*The Association of Home Appliance Manufacturers (AHAM) is a not-for-profit trade association representing manufacturers of major, portable and floor care home appliances, and suppliers to the industry and is headquartered in Washington, DC. You can visit the AHAM web site at <http://www.aham.org>*