



The Clear Way to Compare Air Cleaners

SUMMER SMOG AND ITS EFFECT ON ALLERGY AND ASTHMA SUFFERERS

With the summer upon us, smog and ozone levels are greatly increased, now more than during any other season. Ozone levels are typically higher during the May through September period when heat and excessive sunlight combine with the heavy air conditions associated with increased ozone air pollution. Exposure to smog and ozone can irritate the lungs and increase risk of asthma attacks.

According to The American Lung Association, more than one-quarter of Americans live in areas where particle pollution reaches unhealthy levels. Almost half live in areas with health-threatening levels of ozone pollution, or smog.

People may seek refuge from the heat and smog inside. However, they may be unaware that the air indoors may actually be 2 to 5 times more polluted than outdoors according to the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). Pollutants and allergens may enter the home through windows, doors and heating systems, and become trapped within your home.

Some people try to solve this problem by opening up the windows or using a fan, however, doing either allows more pollutants in, lifts up particles which had settled down on surfaces circulating them around the home. A more practical and effective solution is a Room Air Cleaner. There are many different types of air cleaners available, using the following filtering systems:

HEPA FILTERS

HEPA stands for High Efficiency Particulate Air, and like the name says, these filters are designed to remove 99.97% of all airborne pollutants 0.3 microns or larger from the air that passes through the filter (these include tobacco smoke, household dust and pollen).

ULPA FILTERS

These ultra-HEPA filters are designed to trap 99.999% all air-borne particles 0.3 microns or smaller from the air that passes through the filter (these include tobacco smoke, household dust and pollen).

ELECTROSTATIC FILTERS

Electrostatic units filter the air using static electricity have a static charge on the filter to allow airborne particles to "stick" to the filter, just like static-charged clothing sticks together.

ELECTRO-STATIC PRECIPITATORS

These air cleaners create opposite charges on the metal plates or wires in a "filter"

assembly. They attract the dust, pollen, smoke and other particles to the plate or grid wire that contains an opposite charge. The assembly can be washed of the particles and used again.

OZONE AIR CLEANERS

These air cleaners introduce small quantities of ozone into the air to reduce airborne pollutants.

IONIZATION

Ionizers may be combined with other technologies, including different types of filters. Ionization units emit a small charge to the airstream which cause particles to adhere to the filter or other surfaces by a magnetic-like attraction.

Selecting the right air cleaner for your home may seem like a challenge. The Association of Home Appliance Manufacturers (AHAM) in Washington, DC has developed a certification program for air cleaners to make the selection process easier. This program uses the Clean Air Delivery Rate (CADR) which is a rating that measures the amount of clean air the unit delivers per minute in cubic feet. Ratings for tobacco smoke, dust and pollen appear on products bearing AHAM's seals of certification. Appropriate room sizes are also listed. CADR rated room air cleaners can remove tobacco smoke particles as small as one-tenth of a micron, and dust and pollen particles much smaller than one micron. A micron is 39 millionths of an inch— far below the size of a period.

To help you further determine what the best air cleaner is for your home you can call us at 1-800-267-3138 or visit us online at www.cadr.org and use our chart to match the size of your living area to the air cleaner which best works for that size. Also, you can download a directory of all AHAM certified room air cleaners as well as find out where you can purchase replacement filters for your air cleaner, what today's pollen count is for your area, and other helpful hints for healthy indoor living.