

Information On Air Purifiers For Use In Office Environments

Written with assistance from: In-Tech Marketing
<http://www.airpurifier-select.com/>
1-888-324-9907

Note: For more information, please contact Joey Pons at 482-5357 or safetyman@louisiana.edu

The purpose of purchasing an air purifier is to remove the toxins from the air and to ensure that the surrounding environment (i.e. offices and rooms adjacent to the smoker's room) is free from the discomfort of cigarette smoke.

The air purifier should contain an activated charcoal filter, which removes chemicals from the smoke. This is required over one that contains only a HEPA filter, which is used only for particle filtration. Some air purifiers contain both a HEPA filter and an activated charcoal filter – these are acceptable and desirable for maximum efficiency.

The air purifier should provide no less than 2 air changes per hour, with 4 - 5 air changes being preferred. Most units give a specification based on a room size of which you could compare to the University room in question. You could also calculate the clean air-flow requirements of the room. For help in this, contact the EH&S office at 482-5357 or safetyman@louisiana.edu.

Employees should be encouraged to purchase air purifiers a little on the large side. A larger device will allow the unit to run on the low setting - which will be much quieter and more comfortable. Filtration is more efficient on the low setting, which causes the filters to last longer.

An indicator that identifies the need to change the filter is also suggested. Employees should shop both the cost of the unit and the cost of filters before making a decision. Consider the Hewlett Packard printer versus the Epson. The Epson is 33% cheaper to purchase, but the cartridges last 1/2 as long and usually cost more than the HP. In the end, the HP is a better value.

Although there are many acceptable models available, here are a few that are suggested:

1. Austin Healthmate HM 200 (Junior), cost about \$250.00, filter replacement cost is about \$120.00, filter good for 2 - 3 years.
2. Bonaire model BAP1300, cost about \$220.00, filter replacement cost is about \$100.00, filter good for 1-2 years. Also highly rated by consumer reports for its quietness.
3. Holmes model HAP615, cost about \$100.00, filter replacement cost is about \$38.00, filter good for less than 6 months.

A great website to compare models is:

<http://www.airpurifier-select.com/>

Phone number - 1-888-324-9907

These devices are available locally and the warranty for them varies. Remember, the air-purifier should be placed close to the smoker and the ashtray in order to be most efficient.