Air Conditioner Quick Reference

This fact sheet provides a quick overview of BC Hydro rebates and important details about high-efficiency window and portable air conditioners.

From **May 1 to August 21, 2026**, BC Hydro will be providing discounts on select high-efficiency window and portable air conditioners at participating retailers. The products that qualify for BC Hydro rebates are the most energy efficient models on the market and will help customers save energy and money. Visit bchydro.com/deals on **May 1** for a complete list of eligible products.

Discount offer: Save **$50** on select ENERGY STAR® window air conditioners and high efficiency portable air conditioners.

Eligible air conditioner criteria:

- **Window Air Conditioners:** ENERGY STAR®, variable-speed, and CEER 15 or higher.
- **Portable Air Conditioners:** Dual-duct models, or single-duct models equipped with variable-speed/inverter technology.
- **Limit of two (2)** per SKU per approved product, per customer transaction.
- Included on **BC Hydro's qualified product list**.
- Sold as a **new product** (no open-box or refurbished units).
- Available to **BC Hydro residential customers** in **BC Hydro's service territory**.
- Rebate is **per unit** and provided by BC Hydro.

ENERGY STAR®

All ENERGY STAR ® certified products are tested and certified by an independent third party to meet strict efficiency specification and perform the same or better than standard products without compromising performance.

www.energystar.gov

ENERGY SAVINGS & MAINTENANCE

Performance & efficiency overview

Window air conditioners operate at nearly twice the efficiency of portable units. For portable air conditioners, features like a dual-duct design or a variable-speed or invertor compressor can significantly improve their performance.

Essential maintenance & care

Maintenance for a room air conditioner includes cleaning or replacing filters, air intakes, and grills. If these parts become dirty or overloaded, the unit may lose performance, use more energy, or become louder during operation. Some portable air conditioners also have an internal water collection container that must be emptied regularly, often every day, depending on humidity levels and how often the unit is used.

When operating the unit, customers should continue to use passive cooling whenever possible. This includes closing blinds to reduce heat from the sun and opening windows at night when the outdoor air is cooler than the indoor air. These steps help the air conditioner cool the room more effectively, shorten the time needed to reach a comfortable temperature, and lower overall operating costs.

Sizing your space for comfort

To select the right window or portable air conditioner, measure the length and width of the space in feet and multiply them to determine the total square footage. Compare this value with the maximum recommended room size on the product packaging, and for open floor plans, include the full area the unit will need to cool. Choosing a unit that matches the room size is important, as larger models use more energy.

If the air conditioner is not sized correctly, it may struggle to cool the space to a comfortable temperature or may cool it too quickly, which can lead to discomfort for occupants.

Support & Materials: For questions or to request additional signage, please email our team at **retail@bchydro.com**.

CHOOSE THE RIGHT COOLING CAPACITY

Areas to be cooled (sq ft)	Capacity needed (BTU/hr)	Areas to be cooled (sq ft)	Capacity needed (BTU/hr)
100 up to 150 sq ft	5,000	400 up to 450 sq ft	10,000
150 up to 250 sq ft	6,000	450 up to 550 sq ft	12,000
250 up to 300 sq ft	7,000	550 up to 700 sq ft	14,000
300 up to 350 sq ft	8,000	700 up to 1000 sq ft	18,000
350 up to 400 sq ft	9,000	1,000 up to 1,200 sq ft	21,000

COMPARE AIR CONDITIONER TYPE

	Window air conditioners	Portable air conditioners
ENERGY STAR®	Large selection	None
Average efficiency (CEER)	11.4 (Range: 9.0 - 17.6)	7.4 (Range: 3.8 - 14.7)
Ease of installation	More difficult (requires tools)	Easy (no tools required)
Flexibility	Low (difficult to move)	High (easy to move)
Time required to lower temperature	Faster	Slower (2× longer)
Average cost per BTU	Lower	Higher

FAQS

Q: What does Combined Energy Efficiency Ratio (CEER) mean?

A: Combined Energy Efficiency Ratio is the ratio of measured cooling output to electrical energy input (BTU/hr per watt). It considers the energy used while the air conditioner is running as well as the standby power used while the unit is not running but is powered on. The higher the CEER, the more efficient the unit.

Q: What should I look for when choosing a room air conditioner?

A: When looking for a room air conditioner, select a unit that is sized correctly for the room and works with the room's type of window. If a window air conditioner works for the space, this is a more efficient choice and offers ENERGY STAR® options. Also look for a model with a higher CEER rating and with variable speed/inverter technology to save energy. If a portable air conditioner works best for the window type, look for a unit with a dual hose as this design cools your home quicker.

Q: Where should I place my room air conditioner?

A: A room air conditioner should be placed in the area that will provide the most relief and comfort. This often includes bedrooms, where cooler temperatures can help support restful sleep. If your household includes seniors, young children, or anyone with health conditions who may be more affected by extreme heat, consider placing the unit where they can access the cooled space. Always ensure the airflow from the unit is not blocked.

CONTACT & RESOURCES

Rebate details & eligible products: visit bchydro.com/deals.
Buying guidance: learn more about selecting efficient units at energystar.gov.
Support & materials: for questions or to request additional signage, please email our team at retail@bchydro.com.

BC Hydro
Power smart