

Air Conditioner Purchase Checklist

1. Determine Your Cooling Needs

- **Room Size Measurement:** Measure the square footage of the room(s) you want to cool.
- **BTU Requirement:** Use a BTU calculator to determine the required cooling capacity based on room size.
 - Small Room (100-300 sq. ft.): 5,000-6,000 BTUs
 - Medium Room (300-500 sq. ft.): 7,000-8,200 BTUs
 - Large Room (500-1,000 sq. ft.): 10,000-12,500 BTUs

2. Energy Efficiency

- **Check SEER Ratings:** Look for a Seasonal Energy Efficiency Ratio (SEER) of 14 or higher for good energy efficiency.
- **Energy Star Certification:** Ensure the unit is Energy Star certified to save on energy bills.
- **Inverter Technology:** Opt for inverter technology for more efficient and quieter operation.

3. Consider Noise Levels

- **Decibel Rating:** Check the unit's noise level (decibels). Aim for a unit under 60 dB for a quieter experience, especially for bedrooms.
- **Customer Reviews:** Read customer reviews to see if noise is a common complaint.

4. Budget Considerations

- **Set a Budget Range:** Determine your budget range before shopping.
- **Balance Cost with Features:** Weigh the importance of features against cost. Sometimes, spending a bit more can lead to long-term savings and comfort.

5. Check Brand Reputation

- **Research Trusted Brands:** Look for brands known for reliability and customer service.
- **Warranty and Support:** Verify the warranty period (at least 1-2 years for parts and labour) and check for the availability of customer support and service centres.

6. Installation and Maintenance

- **Professional Installation:** Decide if you'll need professional installation. Some units require a technician to set them up properly.
- **Maintenance Needs:** Check if the unit requires frequent maintenance, such as filter cleaning or refrigerant recharging, and if it's easy to do yourself.

7. Smart Features

- **Smart Home Compatibility:** Ensure the AC is compatible with smart home systems like Alexa, Google Home, or Apple HomeKit.
- **Wi-Fi and App Control:** Look for units with Wi-Fi capabilities allowing remote access through an app.

8. Warranty and Customer Support

- **Warranty Details:** Confirm the length and coverage of the warranty.
- **Extended Warranty:** Consider purchasing an extended warranty if available.
- **After-Sales Service:** Research the brand's reputation for customer support and ease of accessing spare parts.

9. Environmental Impact

- **Eco-Friendly Refrigerant:** Choose an air conditioner that uses an environmentally friendly refrigerant like R-32.
- **Recycling and Disposal:** Check if the manufacturer offers recycling or disposal programs for old units.

10. Special Features

- **Air Quality Improvement:** If air quality is a concern, look for features like air purifiers, dehumidifiers, or HEPA filters.
- **Auto Restart:** Ensure the unit has an auto-restart function after power outages.
- **Programmable Timer:** A programmable timer can help manage cooling schedules and save energy.

11. Compare Models

- **Feature Comparison:** List your top 3-5 models and compare features like cooling capacity, energy efficiency, and noise levels.

- **Price Comparison:** Check prices across different retailers and consider any ongoing promotions or discounts.

12. Final Check Before Purchase

- **Return Policy:** Understand the retailer's return policy if the unit does not meet your expectations.
- **Installation Date:** Confirm the installation date and any associated costs.

This checklist should help you make an informed decision when purchasing an air conditioner, ensuring it meets your specific cooling needs and preferences.