

Find a Properly Sized Room Air Conditioner

The time it takes to determine what's right for your house is worth the energy savings

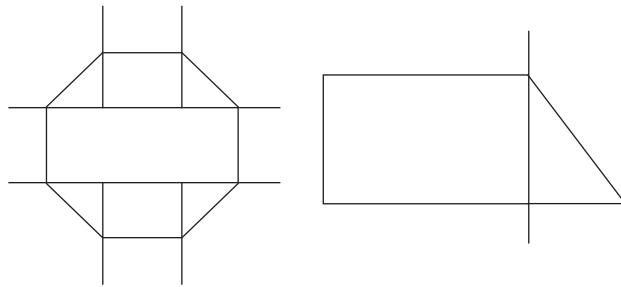
Many people buy an air conditioner that is too large, thinking it will provide better cooling. However, an oversized air conditioner is actually less effective and wastes energy.

Air conditioners remove both heat and humidity from the air. If the unit is too large, it will cool the room quickly, but only remove some of the humidity. This leaves the room with a damp, clammy feeling. A properly sized unit will remove humidity effectively as it cools.

To figure out which size unit is best for your cooling needs, determine the square footage of the area to be cooled using the following formulas:

- For square and rectangular rooms, multiply the length of the area by its width.
- For a triangular area, multiply the length of the area by the width and divide by two.

Most rooms can be further divided into these basic shapes to determine the square footage:



If the shape of your room is other than square or rectangular, you can also ask a sales associate to help determine the square footage. ■

Determining Cooling Capacity

Using the square footage of the room and the chart below, determine the correct cooling capacity. Cooling capacity is measured in British thermal units (BTUs) per hour.

Area to be Cooled (square feet)	Capacity Needed (BTUs per hour)
100 up to 150.....	5,000
150 up to 250.....	6,000
250 up to 300.....	7,000
300 up to 350.....	8,000
350 up to 400.....	9,000
400 up to 450.....	10,000
450 up to 550.....	12,000
550 up to 700.....	14,000
700 up to 1,000.....	18,000
1,000 up to 1,200.....	21,000
1,200 up to 1,400.....	23,000
1,400 up to 1,500.....	24,000
1,500 up to 2,000.....	30,000
2,000 up to 2,500.....	34,000

Make any adjustments for the following circumstances:

- If the room is heavily shaded, reduce capacity by 10 percent.
- If the room is very sunny, increase capacity by 10 percent.
- If more than two people regularly occupy the room, add 600 BTUs for each additional person.
- If the unit is used in a kitchen, increase capacity by 4,000 BTUs.

Consider where you install the unit. If you are mounting an air conditioner near the corner of a room, look for a unit that can send the airflow in the right direction.

This and other helpful articles can be found at www.energystar.gov.