

Properly Sized Air Conditioners

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 at the same time.

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:

1. 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 2.
 - 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, ask your sales associate to help you determine the square footage.

2. Using a room's square footage and the chart at right, determine the correct cooling capacity. Cooling capacity is measured in British thermal units (Btu) per hour.

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 Btu for each additional person.
- If the unit is used in a kitchen, increase capacity by 4,000 Btu.
- If you mount an air conditioner near the corner of a room, install a unit that can send airflow in the right direction.

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

Area to be Cooled (square feet)	Capacity Needed (Btu 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

State Recognizes High Quality of Wastewater Treatment Plants

The Washington State Department of Ecology recently recognized the Dallesport, Wishram, Lyle and Klickitat wastewater treatment plants as recipients for the 2010 "Wastewater Treatment Plant Outstanding Performance" awards.

Each plant was evaluated for compliance with its effluent limits, monitoring and reporting requirements, spill prevention planning, pretreatment and other regulatory activities to stay in full compliance with their discharge permits. These important obligations must be met

to protect Washington's water quality.

"The crew uses their training and skills to accomplish compliance with the permit conditions," say KPUD Water/Wastewater Superintendent Tim Furlong. "We can be proud of their efforts when receiving this award for operating these beautiful, modern plants, my sincere thanks to each crew member."

Kelly Susewind, a water quality program manager with Ecology, writes, "It takes diligent operators and a strong management team, working effectively

together, to achieve this high level of compliance. Ecology appreciates the extraordinary level of effort demonstrated throughout 2010. Skillful and proficient operators are critical to the successful plant operations and protection of Washington state's precious waters."

The communities of Dallesport, Wishram, Lyle and Klickitat, and the dedicated KPUD operators, are congratulated for their efforts, having worked hard to maintain compliance throughout the year. ■