

Air Conditioner and Air Filter Deployment Program

Protecting the health of at-risk Oregonians during extreme heat and wildfires

Section 7 of [Senate Bill 1536](#) (2022 Regular Session) directed the Oregon Health Authority (OHA) to create Oregon's Air Conditioner and Air Filter Deployment Program. This program:

- Provides portable air conditioner (AC) units and air filtration devices to protect Oregonians from extreme heat and wildfire smoke.
- Is only for people who qualify for medical assistance through OHA, Oregon Department of Human Services (ODHS) or Medicare, or people who have received medical assistance services in the past 12 months.

This year OHA will be able to provide around 3,000 AC units and 4,700 air filtration devices. OHA also works with partner organizations around the state to help install AC units for members who need help.

Program eligibility

Who qualifies for an AC unit?

People who do not have a cooling device can get an AC unit if they:

- Qualify for medical assistance through OHA, Oregon Department of Human Services (ODHS) or Medicare, or received these services in the past 12 months, **and**
- Live in a private residence with electricity. This includes homes, apartments and trailer homes; **and**
- Agrees to install the AC unit safely and correctly; **and**
- Are at risk for heat-related illness. This includes:
 - ▶ People age 65 years or older; **or**
 - ▶ Medically fragile children; **or**
 - ▶ People with a disability or health condition that makes them vulnerable to heat events. These include diabetes, heart disease, hypertension, obesity, or a respiratory disease.

Who qualifies for an air filtration device?

People who do not have an air filtration device can get one if they:

- Live in Deschutes, Douglas, Jackson, Josephine, East Lane, Klamath or Lake County, **and**
- Live in a private residence with electricity. This includes homes, apartments and trailer homes; **and**
- Qualify for medical assistance through OHA, ODHS or Medicare, or received these services in the past 12 months, **and**
- Are at risk for health issues due to wildfire smoke. This includes:
 - ▶ People age 65 or older; **or**
 - ▶ Medically fragile children; **or**
 - ▶ People with a disability or health condition that makes them vulnerable to wildfire smoke. These include diabetes, heart disease, hypertension, obesity, or a respiratory disease.

What if I am affected by wildfire smoke, but live in a different county?

Due to limited supply, OHA can only provide air filtration devices to people in the seven counties listed above. These counties have the highest smoke intensity according to the Oregon Department of Environmental Quality.

What if I live in a group setting, such as a nursing facility?

People who live in a community-based settings do not qualify for an AC unit or air filtration device. These settings include:

- Foster home,
- Group home,
- Assisted living facility,
- Retirement facility,
- Treatment facility or home, and
- Nursing facility.

Getting a device

What kind of devices are available?

OHA will be distributing Friedrich portable air conditioners. These are portable AC units with tubing and an insert for your window. The air filtration devices are GrovPure HEPA air filtration devices.

How do I apply to get a device?

OHA works with ODHS to identify people who meet the eligibility criteria described above. Those with the highest needs will be contacted when devices are available.

If you receive supports from the Office of Developmental Disabilities Services (ODDS) or Office of Aging and People with Disabilities (APD) in the Oregon Department of Human Services, ODHS will notify you if you are eligible, and a device is available.

How long does it take to get a device?

The purchased devices come in as the supply chain allows. OHA will work with partners to get them out as quickly as possible. If you qualify, you will be contacted to arrange delivery when a device is available.

How will I get my AC unit or air filtration device?

This depends on what you need. If you can set it up it yourself, we may ship it to your home. If you need help, a local community-based organization may deliver and help install it. You will get more information closer to the delivery date.

Can someone help set up my device?

If you qualify and an AC unit is available, we will contact you and ask about your windows. This is to see if they will be the right fit for the AC unit. We will also ask if you will need help setting it up. If you need help, we will help arrange it.

Air filtration devices require no installation. All you need to do is plug the device into a standard outlet.

How can I get help with my utility bill so I can run my device?

OHA is working with community partners to determine:

- Who can help pay for utility bills related to using these devices, and
- How to best follow-up to make sure the devices are working and in use.

In the meantime, [211 has a utility assistance page](#) that lists options for assistance in the tri-county area.

What if my device has issues or doesn't work?

OHA has statewide pricing agreements with Grainger to purchase these devices. The devices come with a 1-year replacement warranty from the manufacturer. If you need help with your device in the first 12 months of receiving it, email ACdistribution@odhsoha.oregon.gov. OHA will arrange the help you need.

What can I do if I need a device but can't get one through this program?

Oregon Health Plan members who do not get supports from APD or ODDS can [contact their coordinated care organization \(CCO\)](#). The CCO may be able to provide an AC unit or air filtration device as a [flexible service](#).

Some cities and counties, such as the [City of Portland](#) and [Multnomah County](#) have programs with limited supply. Check with your city or county to see if they have any programs.

During heat waves or air quality emergencies, many communities open cooling centers and clean air spaces. These are safe places for people to go if their home doesn't have air conditioning or access to clean air. During the next heat wave or wildfire, you can find local cooling centers and clean air spaces by calling 2-1-1 or 1-866-698- 6155. You can also visit 211info.org.

Tenant rights to install cooling and air filtration devices

Section 1 of [Senate Bill 1536](#) also changes Oregon's landlord and tenant laws to allow tenants to use and install portable cooling devices. Air filtration devices do not require any installation and are approved for residential use.

How may tenants install a device?

Tenants can mount the device in a window or place the device on the floor, as long as it does not damage the dwelling unit or building when installed.

What uses are not protected under state law?

A landlord **may only prohibit or restrict** a tenant from installing or using a device if installation or use of the device would:

- Violate building codes or state or federal law;
- Violate the device manufacturer's written safety guidelines for the device;
- Damage the premises or render the premises uninhabitable;
- Require more amperage to power the device than power service to the building, dwelling unit or circuit can accommodate; or
- For window-mounted devices:
 - ▶ Block a window that serves as the necessary egress from the dwelling unit;
 - ▶ Interfere with the tenant's ability to lock a window that is accessible from outside;

- ▶ Damage or void the warranty of the window or frame, puncture the envelope of the building, or otherwise cause significant damages due to the use of brackets or other hardware required to securely fix the device;
- ▶ Damage the dwelling unit or building because the device cannot be adequately drained; or
- ▶ Risk the device falling.

What other requirements may landlords set for tenants?

Under state law, a landlord may require portable cooling devices to be:

- Installed or removed by the landlord or landlord's agent;
- Subject to inspection or servicing by the landlord or landlord's agent; or
- Removed from October 1 through April 30.

Questions?

If you still have questions about the Air Conditioner and Air Filter Deployment Program, call OHP Client Services at 800-273-0557.