

Portable AC units



Why it matters



Reduce energy costs: Portable AC units are often high-energy consumers when misused.



Improve comfort: Correct placement and operation ensure effective cooling.



Prevent safety risks: Proper installation avoids hazards.



Support sustainability targets: Cuts unnecessary energy consumption and carbon emissions.

Checklist

- Are portable AC units only used when necessary and in appropriate spaces?
- Are units positioned for proper airflow, not obstructed by furniture or walls, with heat rejection pipes installed correctly to external areas?
- Are windows and doors closed when units are operating?
- Are units turned off when the space is unoccupied?
- Are filters clean and maintained regularly?
- Are units set to appropriate temperature settings?

Common issues to watch for

- Units left running overnight or during weekends.
- Cooling used in spaces with open windows or doors.
- Dirty filters reducing efficiency and air quality.
- Units used in spaces with central cooling already active.
- Improper drainage or water collection issues.
- Heat discharge pipe not externally installed or placed in open windows causing short cycling.
- Avoid using portable AC units where central cooling is available.
- Consider energy-efficient portable units for temporary cooling needs.

Quick wins and typical savings



- **Turn off units when not needed or when space is unoccupied:** Saving: £50–£150 per unit annually.
- **Clean filters monthly to maintain efficiency:** Saving: Improves performance and reduces energy use by 5–10%.
- **Ensure proper placement for airflow and safety:** Benefit: Prevents overheating and improves cooling effectiveness.
- **Encourage use of blinds to reduce solar gain and cooling load:** Saving: 5–10% reduction in cooling demand.