

Heat & Energy

## Aftonbladet Portable AC “Best in Test”

New test of portable air conditioners

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UPDATED: 11, JUNE 2022



Aftonbladet’s expert Peter Pettersson has tested this year’s range of air conditioners.

Photo: PETER PETTERSON

### TESTS

The summer season is here, and with it, the hot summer days. When the heat is at its worst, air conditioning can make life easier. We’ve tested portable air conditioners you can install yourself.



The room's heat is removed from the AC via a hose. It must go out through a window or patio door. To prevent heat from outside and small insects from entering, you should install a window seal. They are available in different designs.

Photo: PETER PETTERSON

To keep the heat away, there are many different methods: awnings, blinds, roller blinds, fans and air conditioning of various kinds. But if you want to get it really cool and comfortable, air conditioning is pretty much the only thing that helps.

Fixed equipment, such as an air source heat pump, is best, but one of these requires that you live in a house where you can and are allowed to dig holes in the wall and it costs around SEK 25-30,000 to get it installed and ready. Then you also get a better indoor climate all year round and probably lower electricity consumption overall.



When the exhaust hose only exits through an open window, heat can enter from the outside and reduce the cooling effect.

Photo: PETER PETERSON

The next best thing is portable air conditioning. It also provides cooling, does not need to cost more than SEK 4-5,000, and does not require an installer.

A portable air conditioner or ac can be placed in any room with one open window. Because at the back they have an exhaust hose where the hot air from the room is taken out. If you don't do that, the heat is just moved around the room.

An air source heat pump has the motor outdoors on the facade. A portable ac has a built-in motor and is therefore in the room to be cooled. The motor makes noise and the noise level from the motor is one of the most significant differences between different models of portable ac.



The Electrolux Well P7 is the best-looking of the ones we tested. But unfortunately, not the best AC.

Photo: PETER PETTERSON

The one in this year's test that sounds the least has a noise level of about 53 decibels at full speed. The loudest ones are at 65 decibels. Twelve decibels higher. This is a lot considering that the decibel scale is a so-called logarithmic scale, which means that an increase of ten decibels means an increase in the sound power by a factor of 10. A difference of ten decibels means that the sound power is ten times higher than the reference level, and 20 decibels means the effect is 100 times higher. For example, it becomes important if a portable AC is to be in a bedroom.

As the excess heat from the AC must escape, you need to open a window. To prevent heat from the outside and small insects from finding their way in, the advice is to get a so-called window seal that is mounted in the window opening. They cost around SEK 4-700.

### **How we tested it**

We have tested the air conditioners in home environments in different-sized rooms in relation to what the manufacturer states they can handle. The largest room we tested in is roughly 40 square meters. We have tested handling and operation. Where applicable, also a connection via Wi-Fi and control with mobile phones.

### **The prices**

These are the lowest prices we could find on price comparison sites Price Hunt (Prisjakt) during week 21.

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## Wood's AC Cortina Silent 12K

★ ★ ★ ★ ★

### BEST IN TEST

Price from: SEK 5,590

Available at: Net-on-net, Hylte Jakt & Lantbruk, Cdon, Elgiganten, K-Rauta, Hemmy, and more.

Function: 5

Usage: 5

Economy: 2

**Verdict:** Wood's Cortina has been adjusted in its construction to make significantly less noise than before. 53.5 decibels at top speed is a level that is among the lowest in our tests. This matters when three decibels is a doubling of sound power. And when you run it at the lowest speed, the noise level drops to 49.2 decibels. It is undoubtedly more than the 25-30 decibels that we usually consider quiet in bedrooms, but low for a portable ac. The Cortina has good cooling capacity and airflow. It is easy to use both with and without the app. The Cortina Silent 12K offers the best performance/lowest noise level for the money.

**Max. room size:** Up to 55 m<sup>2</sup>.

**Cooling capacity:** 12,000 BTU.

**Airflow:** 420 m<sup>3</sup>/hour.

**Cooling power:** 3.5 kW.

**Coolant:** R290.

**Remote control:** Yes.

**Wi-Fi:** Yes.

**App control:** Yes.

**Sound level:** 53.5 decibels  
**Dimensions (HxWxD):** 85x47.1x35.5 cm.  
**Weight:** 33 kg

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## Wood's AC Milan 9K

★ ★ ★ ★ ★

### TOP MODEL

**Price from:** SEK 5,495

**Available at:** Media Markt, Proffsmagasinet, Verktygsproffsen, Komplet, and more.

**Function:** 5

**Usage:** 5

**Economy:** 3

**Verdict:** A problem with portable air conditioners is that the motor is in the unit, in the room that is to be cooled, meaning, it sounds. Sometimes, so much so that it can be difficult to watch TV without turning up the volume or making it difficult to sleep. The Milan from Wood's though, (with headquarters in Alingsås) is one of the quieter ones in the test. It is worth a lot, as it can cool bedrooms and even most living rooms. Its sibling, the "Cortina" has won our tests several times. Milan is a tough competitor, but it does not handle as large areas and is not as quiet.

**Max. room size:** Up to 26 m<sup>2</sup>.

**Cooling capacity:** 9,000 BTU.

**Airflow:** 340 m<sup>3</sup>/hour.

**Cooling power:** 2.6 kW.

**Coolant:** R290.

**Remote control:** Yes.

**Wi-Fi:** Yes.

**App control:** Yes.

**Sound level:** 53 decibels

**Dimensions (HxWxD):** 70x35x35.5 cm.

**Weight:** 24 kg.

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## Woods AC Venezia 18K

★ ★ ★ ★ ★

### FOR LARGE ROOMS

**Price from: SEK 7,990**

**Available at: Luftmiljöbutiken, Hylte Jakt & Agriculture, Maskinklippet, Duab, med several.**

**Function: 5**

**Usage: 5**

**Economy: 1**

**Verdict:** Woods Venezia is intended for slightly larger areas. It is able to cool a room of up to 50 square meters. For it to be able to do that, it needs a big motor, which in turn means that it is a little louder than several of the other air conditioners in the test, but it is a good option if you have large rooms, or perhaps a modern home with large windows from floor to ceiling. It can produce cooling with an airflow of close to 700 cubic meters per hour. Still, for smaller rooms, it takes up too much space and costs more than many other devices that handle much smaller rooms. Overall, it has a very powerful motor and cooling capacity.

#### **FACTS**

**Max. room size:** up to 50 m<sup>2</sup>.

**Cooling capacity:** 18,000 BTU.

**Airflow:** 680 m<sup>3</sup>/hour.

**Cooling power:** 5.2 kW.

**Coolant type:** R290.

**Remote control:** Yes.

**Wi-Fi:** No.

**App control:** No.

**Sound level:** 65 decibels.

**Dimensions (HxWxD):** 78x49x37.6 cm.

**Weight:** 32 kg.