



INFORMATION BRIEFING ON EXTREME HEAT AND POOR AIR QUALITY

ADVICE TO RESIDENTS

Investing in a climate-ready home means preparing for longer, more frequent heatwaves and protecting your family from potentially deadly wildfire smoke.

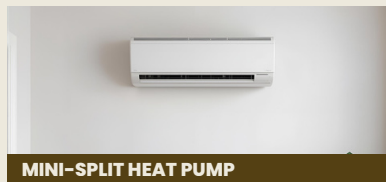
Depending on your homes setup and resources available, there are three main options for mechanical cooling.



HEAT PUMP

Heat pumps work by transferring heat from inside your home to the outdoors. They are the most energy efficient way to mechanically cool your whole home, though have higher upfront costs and require professional installation. Your municipality may have a Clean Energy Improvement Program to help offset costs.

Cost - \$8,000 - \$15,000



MINI-SPLIT HEAT PUMP

Mini-split heat pumps are an energy efficient solution to cool a smaller space in your home. Ducts are not required. They provide a middle ground between the more costly heat pump and less energy efficient portable air conditioner. A contractor is still required for installation but a single zone can be installed within a day.

Cost - \$3,000 - \$6,000



PORTABLE AIR CONDITIONER

Portable air conditioners reduce the indoor temperatures of one or more spaces. They are easily plugged in near a window, with a tube that vents the heat outdoors. While not a permanent solution for whole-home cooling, they provide a safe, cool space to get through extreme heat.

Cost - > \$600



AIR PURIFIER

Air purifiers push air through filters designed to remove small particulate matter, including PM2.5 found in wildfire smoke. To use, plug it in and turn it on. Replace the filter as instructed. Air purifiers are recommended in addition to any filtration your cooling system provides during periods of poor air quality.

Cost - \$100 - \$300 depending on size



Tips

Use the manufacturer's instructions to determine the appropriate unit size.

Look for Energy Star-rated products for higher energy efficiency.

Unless a health care professional has told you otherwise, prioritize keeping a cool space over clean air.

Prioritize keeping one room cool and with filtered air. Use this space to sleep until temperatures drop and air quality improves.

Make sure to follow other public health guidance and seek external help if needed.

<https://www.alberta.ca/extreme-heat>

