



FACT SHEET

Air Cleaner

Why you may need an air cleaner

Wildfires, wood stoves, cigarettes and smoke from cooking all contain fine particles from smoke.

When you breathe, these particles can get into the blood stream and cause serious health problems. Some people are more sensitive to the harmful effects of fine particles. These include children and people who have heart disease or chronic lung disease including asthma. People age 65 or over and pregnant women can also be at higher risk.

What to do to decrease health risk from smoke

People in danger of serious health problems from smoke can use an air cleaner at home to decrease their risk. Effective air filters include:

- High efficiency particulate air (HEPA) filters
- Electro-static precipitator (ESP) filters

Is there a DIY filter option?

If a HEPA or ESP filter is not available, you might consider a DIY option.

- You can make a DIY air filter by attaching a furnace filter on a box fan.
- For a DIY filter to be effective, you will need to completely cover the fan's surface with a HEPA or rated MERV-13 or higher.
- Filters 3 to 5 inches thick will last longer than thinner ones.

Keep these safety tips in mind with DIY filters

- It is very important to turn off the filter when you leave the house.
- Turn off and unplug the fan and contact the retailer or manufacturer if you notice a burning smell or unusual noises.
- Make sure your fire and smoke alarms are functional.
- Replace the fan every several years and change filters when dirty or when the manufacturer recommends.