

Gadgets

Our monthly roundup of new gadgets

Frigidaire

With the summer months almost upon us and heat waves bearing down, it's time to start shopping for an upgrade to your old, leaky A/C unit for a Wi-Fi smart air conditioner which runs, if you'll forgive the pun, just a little bit cooler.

Wi-Fi connected air conditioners are a new class of home appliance that make controlling the climate in your home or office easier than ever before with the help of smartphone apps and cutting-edge technology. And with that in mind, the Frigidaire FGRC1044T1 10,000 BTU Smart Window Air Conditioner is just right. It's easy to install and control via your phone, there is an easy to clean antibacterial filter with a built-in ionizer, and 10,000 BTUs to cool large rooms. First and foremost it boasts 10,000 BTUs, which is enough power to cool a room up to 450



square feet. Second, it features built-in Wifi, allowing you to connect to the unit via your smartphone (Android or iOS) and change fan speed, temperature, control the AC's modes and turn it on and off without having to walk over to the unit.

This particular Smart AC unit is compatible with Amazon's Alexa. So if you have one of those at home, you'll be able to control its feature set with the command of your voice. And if that isn't enough, this AC unit has achieved an Energy Star

rating of 12, making it one of the lowest cost to operate window units in its category; for those of you that are worried about air quality you'll take comfort in the easily removable mesh antibacterial filter, which easily pops off for cleaning thanks to a magnetic closure. Moreover, there is a built-in clean air ionizer allowing this unit to capture more dust in the air. Lastly there is a sleep mode, battery operated remote (in case you like to go old school on the controls – and on the units), a built-in 3 foot cord, and a window kit with side panels that minimizes leaks and keeps the cold in. The unit comes with a multitude of handy features. The auto-restart function allows this AC to automatically resume operation with its previous settings when you turn the unit back on. The 24-hour On/Off timer is also another way to keep operation simple and hands-free. There's even a clean filter alert that lets you know when it's time to clean the included antibacterial filter, which reduces bacteria, odours, and other airborne particles. The eight (8)-way comfort control design of the unit allows you to direct the air in whichever way you wish, while the clean air ionizer and fresh air vent remove pollen and impurities from the air. ■

Honeywell

If you live in an area that has outdoor air pollution, have indoor pets, suffer from allergies, have constant headaches, or find that your eyes or sinuses are



constantly irritated you should consider investing in a purifier like the Honeywell True HEPA Allergen Remover HPA300, which seems an outstanding performer. It has a purely mechanical filtering system which is preferred to hybrid and electronic units, has a CADR rating of 300, can filter a space of up to 465 square feet, self-monitors filter performance, weighs less than 25 lbs, comes with a 5-year limited warranty, and costs only Rs. 35,760.00 No bull, no fuss, just straight air purification.

The purifier uses a two-stage, mechanical filtration process, first pulling air through an activated

carbon pre-filter, then through a HEPA filter. It's powerful enough to handle rooms up to 465 sq. ft. at 280 cubic feet of air per minute without a problem, and it also features an auto-off setting that's convenient if you intend on using this unit passively as a multi-room appliance. A self-monitoring function alerts the owner when it's time to change filters, and the front panel is removable allowing for simple filter replacements. The unit itself is also super lightweight (only 21 lbs), which is very refreshing considering many purifiers at this same level are significantly heavier. ■