

How To Be A Cool Buyer

So you've finally decided to beat the hot, muggy, summer weather and buy an air conditioner. How do you decide what size or kind of air conditoner is right for your needs? The two main factors to consider when buying an air conditioner are its cooling capacity and its operating efficiency.

A room air conditioner's cooling capacity is the amount of heat and moisture transferred from indoor air to the outdoors. This capacity is expressed in British Thermal Units per hour (BTU/hr.). The higher the BTU/hr., the greater the cooling capacity. The cooling capacity of many air conditioners is certified and rated by the Association of Home Appliance Manufacturers and is listed by brand and model number in an AHAM directory. The directory is available from your dealer or directly from AHAM at North Wacker Drive, Chicago, Ill. An AHAM seal is placed an air conditioners that have been certified accurate by AHAM.

A bigger BTU/hr. capacity is not always the best choice for your house. An air conditioner with too much cooling capacity for a given space, can give a room a cold, clammy feeling. But one with too intile cooling capacity simply won't cool the room enough.

To figure out how much cooling capacity you need, obtain a cooling

Ladies Have You Heard?

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Lancaster Extension
Home Economist

load estimate form from your dealer or AHAM. It will help you figure out capacity using factors such as wall, ceiling and floor area and construction materials; numbers of windows and doors; amount of shade; usual number of occupants; and number of heat producing products in your room. Be sure to buy a unit closest to the extimated capacity you need within 5 percent if possible.

An air conditioner's operating efficiency is measured by its energy efficiency ratio (EER). This ratio is figured by correlating the BTU/hr. of the unit with the number of watts it takes to operate it. A yellow label attached to air conditioners in stores gives the EER of each unit. The higher the EER, the more efficient, and the cheaper, the air conditioner is to operate. Try to find the most efficient model with the cooling capacity you need.

Parents Need To Be Toy Smart, Too

Before you give your child anything that can go faster than he can, consider the safety of the product you buy. Accidents and serious injury can be avoided with a little though before purchase, according to the U.S. Consumer Products Safety Commission.

When buying a bike, first make sure the bicycle fits your child's size. If you buy a bike that he can "grow into," you're risking his safety. The wrong-sized bike can be almost impossible to control. Also, teach your child "the rules of the road" including hand signals, traffic laws and how to ride with traffic, not against it. Keep the bike safe by checking for sharp points and protruding bolts. These can be either replaced or covered with heavy, waterproof tape. If the bike is used, replace all missing, damaged or worn parts. Be sure to keep the bike indoors when not in use to avoid rusting that can weaken the bike.

When buying a mini-bike, look for exhaust pipes that point rearward away from your child's legs. Have—an experienced mechanic check the brakes, wheel bearings, gas throttle, chain tensions and other components. Also check for sharp edges. If the bike is not new, cover sharp edges with heavy, waterproof tape. Be sure to fill the gas tank before riding or after the bike has been turned off and has cooled.

If you're going to buy your child roller skates, make sure they fit well and are not a pair that he canigrow into." Avoid hand-medowns that don't fit. Keep parts on the skates tightened and broken straps replaced. Teach your child to check the skating surface for cracks, holes, branches, stones and other obstacles before skating.

When you buy your child a skateboard, make sure you buy the safety equipment (a helmet, elbow pads, knee pads and gloves) to go with it. Also make sure your child has skid-resistant shoes to ride the skateboard with. Maintain the skateboard after purchase by checking wheels that make squeaky or gritty noises, wobbly wheels and bent axles. Cracked boards should never be ridden.

Buy carefully for your child and help him to understand the safety that goes along with the product. Cooperation will help to keep your child safe.

Efficiency tips for farm wives

LANCASTER — Both spouses work on almost all American farms today.

Although working wives are putting in full days on the farm, studies show that they still carry most of the burden of household chores. Finding time and energy for these responsibilities is a major concern for today's working wife.

These same women should apply principals of industrial efficiency to household chores. Use the same efficiency methods at home as you use on the farm. Here are some tips for greated efficiency:

1. Delegate responsibility. Make your family aware of the total quantity of work that must be done and ask them to share the housework. It may help to make a list of all things you have to do on a given day and ask them to do the same. Compare lists and present your case.

2. Learn to say "no." Saying no to a daughter, son, or husband may be harder than turning down a boss of friend. Sometimes this must be done. Saying no with courtesy may help you avoid serious conflicts.

Perhaps you can look for short cuts.

3. Organize your home as efficiently as your office. Keep housework tools where you use them, even if it means duplication.

4. Make a To-Do list the night before each day. Each Sunday, list household chores that need to be done that week. Organize errands geographically so you don't waste time covering territory more than once. Leave out in full view things that need to be returned, dropped off, or repaired. If the clutter bothers you keep these things in your car so they are with you when you find a few extra minutes to take care of an item or you are in that part of town.

5. Cut overwhelming housework chores to a manageable size by doing small tasks everyday. Instead of devoting your entire weekend to house cleaning, do a few chores each morning and evening. Throw in a load of clothes to wash before you start dinner or vacuum the carpet before you go to work



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Lancaster Society 20 meets with
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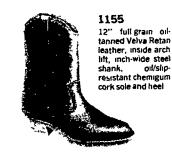


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