

Energy efficient air conditioners

Energy star rating labels

There are two different energy rating labels used for air conditioners. One label is for air conditioners that provide cooling only and the other label is for air conditioners that provide heating as well as cooling.

The stars in the blue band show how efficient the air conditioner is when cooling and the stars in the red show its efficiency when heating. The red and blue boxes on the label for a reverse cycle air conditioner show the cooling and heating capacity in terms of output and input power.

The figure in the blue box shows how much electricity (kWh) the air conditioner will use for 500 hours of cooling. The figure in the red box will tell you how much electricity (kWh) the air conditioner will use for 500 hours of heating.

To calculate the running costs, multiply the consumption figure (kWh) by the current domestic electricity [tariff](#).

The amount of energy consumed will depend on the operating condition of the air conditioner, the age of the unit and where it's placed among other factors.

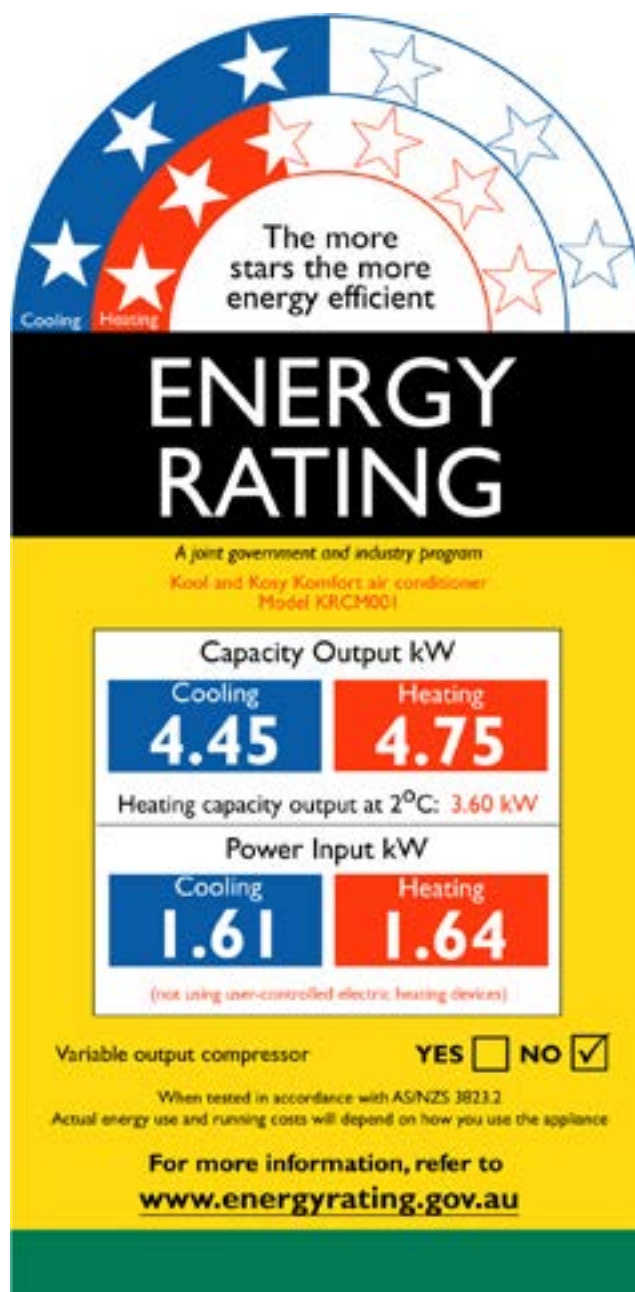
More information

For more information and to compare products, visit energyrating.gov.au

Which air conditioner suits your climate?

Refrigerative air conditioners

Refrigerative air conditioners cool the air by a method of heat extraction called refrigeration. This type of air conditioning is effective in tropical climates where high humidity is present.



There are various types of air conditioners on the market. By choosing the right sized, energy efficient air conditioner you can save money on its operating costs.

Evaporative air conditioners

The temperature of dry air can be dropped significantly through the transition of water to vapour (evaporation), which can cool air using much less energy than refrigeration. This method of cooling is only effective in dry climates such as in Central Australia.

What types of air conditioners are available?

Air conditioners (refrigerative and evaporative) are packaged in the following forms:

Room air conditioner (box aircon)

This type of air conditioner can be mounted either through the wall or in a window. They are quieter if installed through the wall.

Split unit

These air conditioners are split so that the compressor and condenser are located outside and the fan coil unit inside. These air conditioners are usually very quiet.

Ducted air conditioner

A ducted air conditioner can cool a whole house. A split ducted system has the fan coil unit located in the ceiling and usually has a large capacity for larger homes.

Handy hints

- Follow the manufacturer's instructions for filter cleaning and motor maintenance.
- Run your air conditioner on 24 degrees Celsius or above and use the fan as well. This reduces the humidity, cools the air and uses less power than an air conditioner going solo on a lower temperature setting.
- Adjust the louvres on the air conditioner to face upwards to cool (hot air rises, cool air drops)
- Run your air conditioners on timers.

- Ensure your air conditioner is the correct capacity for the size room it is cooling. Allow 130 watts (refrigerative) per square metre of floor space for daytime cooling and 80 watts (refrigerative) per square metre of floor space for night time cooling.
- Ensure cool air can't escape and close all windows and doors to rooms not in need of cooling.
- Close all curtains and drapes while cooling or heating.
- Where possible insulate your rooms – particularly the ceiling, walls and window dressings – to reduce heat transfer into or out of the house.
- Place the air conditioner on the shady side of the building where possible and plant trees and shrubs around your home to create cooling shade on the walls, over windows and roof.



Virtual Energy Audit

Our **Virtual Energy Audit** is an easy way to see how you can cut down your usage and pay less. Customise your virtual home to see how much electricity you are using in each room of your house, then look at your usage summary to see approximately how much electricity your household uses.