

Buying an Air Purifier?

Here's some info to consider!



There are three main things to look for when selecting an air purifier that will help reduce indoor pollutants related to wildfire smoke. These are:

- How small particles does it filter (particulate from wildfire tends to be very small, less than 1 micron and sometimes much much smaller than that)
- How fast does it process air (expressed in a Clean Air Delivery Rate (CADR) rating - these correspond to the square footage of the space you want to clean)
- How efficient is it? (HEPA filters are 99.97% efficient at cleaning airborne pollutants 0.3 microns and larger)

There are a couple of informative papers on air purification systems and on wildfire smoke as a pollutant:

<http://www.epa.gov/iaq/pubs/residair.html>

<http://www.deq.state.mt.us/FireUpdates/WildfireSmokeGuide.pdf>

It is uncertain that the most dangerous particles can be filtered from the most commonly available and affordable purifiers and people may get a false sense of security from having an air purifier running in their house. It is also really important that they need to get the right size for the space they are trying to clean. There are some quite expensive models that filter much smaller particles that are not available in department stores but instead from specialty air purifier distributors and companies.