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## 8 Best Air Purifiers for Smoke of 2024

By [Deirdre Mundorf](#)



Edited by [Marlo Jappen Porto](#)

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Save

Air purifiers for smoke capture harmful particles from cigarettes or wildfires, making indoor air safer and healthier to breathe. They can also help remove unpleasant odors so your home smells cleaner and fresher. Not just any air purifier will do the job, though.

To target smoke, look for an air purifier with both a high efficiency particulate air (HEPA) filter and an activated carbon filter. HEPA filters remove at least 99.97% of airborne particles as small as 0.3 microns in size, while activated carbon filters tackle odors. We've conducted extensive research and reached out to experts to put together our list of top recommendations. The Winix 5500-2 is our best overall pick, but we also cover the best air purifiers for smoke that suit a range of needs.

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## Our Top Picks

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**PROS:**

- ✓ Four-stage filtration system
- ✓ Smart sensors to detect air quality and adjust fan speed
- ✓ Relatively high CADR rating for smoke

**CONS:**

- ✗ Not Wi-Fi enabled
- ✗ Not suitable for larger rooms

[Buy From Amazon](#)

With its four-stage filtration system and ability to remove contaminants from the air, the Winix 5500-2 is our best overall pick. This model's filtration system starts with a fine mesh pre-filter to trap large particles. Once air goes through the pre-filter, it hits the advanced odor control (AOC) carbon filter, which works to remove odors from smoke, pets, cooking, and more before sending the air to the unit's HEPA filter. Additionally, the Winix 5500-2 features the company's PlasmaWave technology that discharges positive and negative ions that attach themselves to pollutants, helping to further clean the air.

This model provides coverage for up to 360 square feet of space, making it a suitable choice for bedrooms, home offices, and even many living rooms or family rooms. Its clean air delivery rate (CADR) for smoke is 232. A few other notable features of this model include the smart sensor and Auto Mode to adjust the fan speed based on the air quality in the room, the air quality indicator light, and the sleep mode that switches the unit to a quieter and more energy-efficient setting when a room gets dark.

Specs

List Price:

\$249.99

Filter Type:

Washable fine mesh pre-filter, washable AOC carbon filter, true HEPA filter

Coverage Area:

360 sq. ft.

CADR:

Smoke: 232; Dust: 243; Pollen: 246

[EXPAND LIST](#) ▾

[Buy From Amazon](#) »

Best Budget

Levoit Core 300 Air Purifier »

**PROS:**

- ✓ Relatively inexpensive
- ✓ Carbon filter neutralizes odors
- ✓ Compatible four-stage smoke remover replacement filter available

**CONS:**

- ✗ Not ideal for those who want a simple device
- ✗ Smaller coverage area

[Buy From Amazon](#)

Costing just less than \$100, the Levoit Core 300 Air Purifier is the least expensive model on our list. This compact unit is designed for smaller spaces, such as bedrooms or home offices, with a coverage area of up to 219 square feet. It utilizes a three-stage filtration system to remove smoke odors and contaminants along with other pollutants from the air. Air passes through an activated carbon filter for odor absorption and the Levoit HEPA-grade filter to trap 99.9% of particles between 0.1 and 0.3 microns. While the 141 CADR for smoke is lower than many other models on our list, it still exceeds the recommended two-thirds of the room's square footage

(assuming you only use this model in rooms that don't exceed the recommended coverage area).

If filtering out smoke particles and odors is a priority, consider purchasing the Levoit Core 300 4-Stage Smoker Remover Replacement Filter. This replacement filter is specifically designed to filter out airborne pollution, including smoke. In addition to the standard filter layers, including a pre-filter, a filter to trap tiny particles, and a carbon filter, this component also uses the brand's proprietary ARC Formula to help break down particles in the carbon filter, minimizing second-hand pollution.

Specs

List Price:

\$99.99

Filter Type:

3-stage filtration system, including activated carbon filter

Coverage Area:

219 sq. ft.

CADR:

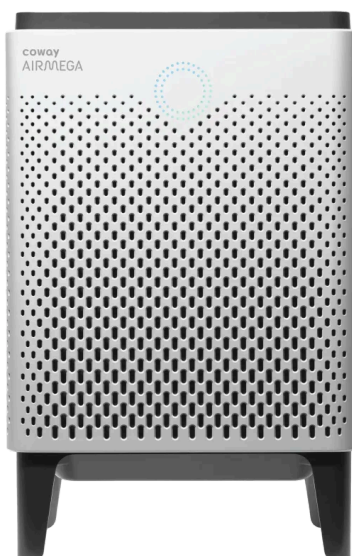
Smoke: 141; Dust: 140; Pollen: 145

[EXPAND LIST](#) ▾

[Buy From Amazon](#) »

Best for Large Spaces

Coway Airmega 400S »

**PROS:**

- ✓ Covers up to 1,560 square feet
- ✓ Filtration system traps 99.999% of particles as small as 0.01 microns
- ✓ Auto, eco, and sleep smart settings

**CONS:**

- ✗ Expensive
- ✗ Large footprint

[Buy From Amazon](#)

The Coway Airmega 400S is a top choice for those looking to purify the air in a large space. It covers up to 1,560 square feet (with two air changes each hour) or up to 3,120 square feet (with up to one air change each hour). This model has a CADR of 328 for smoke and utilizes several different filters to remove odors and particles from the air.

The pre-filter, the first layer in the filtration system, removes dust, fur, and other larger contaminants. It's washable and doesn't need to be replaced. The activated carbon filter comes next. This filter deodorizes spaces, removing volatile organic compounds (VOCs) and odors from smoke, pets,

and more. The final layer of the filtration system is the green true HEPA filter, which removes 99.97% of viruses, bacteria, and other pollutants as small as 0.01 microns.

With a price of \$749, this is one of the more expensive models on our list. However, it's Wi-Fi enabled. You can pair it with the Coway IoCare mobile app, making it possible to adjust the settings, monitor the air quality in the space, create schedules, and more.

Specs

List Price:	\$749
Filter Type:	Washable pre-filter, activated carbon filter, green true HEPA filter
Coverage Area:	1,560 sq. ft.
(CADR):	Smoke: 328; Dust: 328; Pollen: 400

EXPAND LIST ▾

[Buy From Amazon »](#)

Best for Small Spaces

Winix A231 »



**PROS:**

- ✓ Cleans rooms up to 230 square feet
- ✓ Detects air quality and adjusts speed
- ✓ Energy Star certified

**CONS:**

- ✗ Only suitable for small rooms
- ✗ Replacement filters are nearly half the cost of the unit

[Buy From Amazon](#)

If you're looking for an air purifier for smoke for a smaller room, take a look at the Winix A231. This compact model is designed to clean rooms of up to 230 square feet in less than 15 minutes. Despite its smaller size, this model utilizes a four-stage purification process. Air first flows through the fine mesh pre-filter, where large particles are removed. Then, the air is sent through the true HEPA filter, which traps 99.97% of particles down to 0.3 microns in size.

To remove odors and VOCs, the air travels through the activated carbon filter. Finally, the PlasmaWave Air Cleaning Technology releases charged ions into the air to get rid of viruses and bacteria. A few other standout features of this air purifier include the air quality indicator lights, its Energy Star

certification, the quiet sleep mode, and the filter replacement LED indicator light.

Specs

List Price:	\$119.99
Filter Type:	Fine mesh pre-filter, Winix true HEPA filter, activated carbon filter
Coverage Area:	230 sq. ft.
(CADR):	Smoke: 147; Dust: 149; Pollen: 154

EXPAND LIST ▾

[Buy From Amazon »](#)

Best for Odors

Rabbit Air A3 Ultra Quiet Air Purifier »



PROS:

- ✓ Custom filter options for odors, toxins, and more
- ✓ Relatively high CADR rating for smoke
- ✓ Mobile app to monitor air quality and adjust settings

CONS:

- ✗ Pricey
- ✗ On the heavier side

Buy From Amazon

With its six-stage filtration system, the Rabbit Air A3 Ultra Quiet Air Purifier effectively removes contaminants and odors from smoke and other sources from the air. The filtration system consists of a washable pre-filter to capture pet hair, dust, and other large particles, along with a medium filter that further reduces these larger contaminants. After flowing through the medium filter, air passes through the activated carbon filter, where odors are absorbed by the micropores of the material. Next, the electrostatically-charged BioGS HEPA filter captures 99% of particles down to 0.1 microns.

While many air purifiers feature a pre-filter, a HEPA filter, and an activated carbon filter, the Rabbit Air A3 Ultra Quiet Air Purifier takes things a step further with its customized filter – and there are four to choose from. For enhanced removal of smoke odors, opt for the Odor Remover custom filter. Toxin Absorber, Pet Allergy, and Germ Defense custom filters are the other available options. This model can cover up to 1,070 square feet, uses sensors to detect air quality and adjust the fan speed, and can be controlled remotely using the Rabbit Air App.

Specs

List Price: \$749.95

Filter Type: Pre-filter, medium filter, activated carbon charcoal filter, BioGS HEPA filter, customized filter (Toxin Absorber, Odor Remover, Germ Defense, or Pet Allergy)

Coverage  
Area:  
  
(CADR):  
  
[EXPAND LIST](#) ▼

1,070 sq. ft.  
  
Smoke: 257; Dust: 262; Pollen: 315

[Buy From Amazon »](#)

Best Air Purifier and Humidifier Combo

Dyson Purifier Humidify + Cool Formaldehyde »



- PROS:**

  - ✓ Functions as an air purifier, a humidifier, and a fan
  - ✓ Covers rooms up to 872 square feet
- CONS:**

  - ✗ Expensive
  - ✗ CADR rating not listed

[Buy From Amazon](#)

- ✓ Fully-sealed machine to prevent pollutants from being released

If you’re looking for a more versatile model, the Dyson Purifier Humidify + Cool Formaldehyde could be the right fit. In addition to purifying the air, this air purifier also works as a [humidifier](#) and a [fan](#). It uses its solid-state formaldehyde sensor and catalytic filter to get rid of formaldehyde by breaking the molecules into carbon dioxide and water. This unit features a two-in-one feature. The HEPA filter traps 99.97% of particles down to 0.3 microns and the carbon air purifier tackles VOCs and odors. The entire unit is sealed to meet HEPA H13 standards, helping ensure that all trapped pollutants do not make their way back into your home’s air.

The Dyson Purifier Humidify + Cool uses sensors to measure air quality and reports levels on the LCD screen. When in auto mode, the purifier will adjust the airflow to ensure optimal humidity and air quality levels. With the MyDyson app, you can check on the air quality in the room and adjust the settings. You can even connect the purifier with your home’s virtual assistant, enabling voice control features.

## Specs

List Price:	\$999.99
Filter Type:	360 combi glass HEPA + carbon air purifier 2-in-1 filter
Coverage Area:	872 sq. ft.
(CADR):	Not listed

[EXPAND LIST](#) ▾

[Buy From Amazon](#) »

## Best With Smart Features

### Coway Airmega AP-1512HHS »



#### PROS:

- ✓ App-enabled
- ✓ Compatible with voice assistants like Amazon Alexa and Google Home
- ✓ Auto Mode adjusts the fan to match air quality needs

#### CONS:

- ✗ Only suitable for rooms up to 325 square feet
- ✗ May not be compatible with all Wi-Fi routers

[Buy From Amazon](#)

The Coway Airmega AP-1512HHS is a Wi-Fi-enabled option that allows users to control it from their phones and other smart devices. When paired with the Coway loCare mobile app, you can remotely adjust the fan speed to reduce energy costs, create schedules to match your day-to-day activities, and more. The app's monitoring tools make it possible to check on the indoor air quality in the room or even to track outdoor air pollution levels to make sure your

home is protected. Additionally, app users will receive alerts when it is time to replace the filters, ensuring the purifier can operate at maximum effectiveness.

Coway’s Airmega AP-1512HHS completes nearly five air changes per hour in rooms of around 325 square feet. It’ll complete two air changes per hour in rooms up to 788 square feet and one air change per hour in rooms up to 1,575 square feet. It uses a three-stage filtration system with a pre-filter, an activated carbon filter for odor removal, and a green true HEPA filter to remove 99.97% of particles.

Specs

List Price:	\$299.99
Filter Type:	Pre-filter, activated carbon filter, true HEPA filter
Coverage Area:	788 sq. ft.
(CADR):	Smoke: 210; Dust: 246; Pollen: 221

EXPAND LIST ▾

[Buy From Amazon »](#)

Best Splurge

Coway Airmega ProX »

**PROS:**

- ✓ Large coverage area
- ✓ High CADR rating for smoke
- ✓ Dual-sided air intake
- ✓ Uses four filters
- ✓ Smart particle sensors

**CONS:**

- ✗ Expensive
- ✗ Large footprint

[Buy From Amazon](#)

If you're looking to invest in an air purifier that packs a punch, check out the Coway Airmega ProX. This workhorse of a model cycles the air in spaces as large as 4,253 square feet once every hour. In slightly smaller spaces, it's even more effective, completing two air changes every hour for spaces up to 2,126 square feet and four air changes every hour for rooms up to 1,063 square feet.

The model also has a high smoke CADR rating of 568. It uses four different filters to remove smoke and other contaminants from the air, starting with the pre-filter that removes large particles. Next, air passes through the Max2



Filter, which pairs an activated carbon filter with a true HEPA filter. The activated carbon filter works to remove odors from cigarettes, wildfires, food, pets, and other sources from the air, while the true HEPA filter traps 99.97% of viruses, bacteria, pollen, and other microscopic particles.

The true HEPA filter also provides an antimicrobial treatment to the air before it's sent back into the room to further reduce the spread of viruses and other pollutants. A few other notable features of this unit include the smart particle sensors, dual air intake panels, and filter indicator to alert you when it's time to purchase [replacements](#).

Specs

List Price:	\$762.94
Filter Type(s):	Pre-filter, activated carbon filter, true HEPA filter
Coverage Area:	2,126 sq. ft.
CADR:	Smoke: 568; Dust: 580; Pollen: 450

[EXPAND LIST](#) ▾

[Buy From Amazon](#) »

The Bottom Line

The Winix 5500-2 earns the top spot on our list of the best air purifiers for smoke. This model utilizes a four-stage filtration system to remove smoke particles, odors, and other contaminants from the air. It's ideal for spaces up to 360 square feet and features smart sensors and an Auto Mode to adjust the fan speed based on the presence of pollutants in the air. While the Winix 5500-2 is our top pick, depending on the size of your room, your budget, or other preferences, you may find that one of our other recommendations is a better fit for you.

## Things To Consider When Buying Air Purifiers for Smoke

**Filters:** Pay close attention to the filtration system of each model as you shop for a new air purifier. Roberson explains, "It's crucial to consider the specific features designed to effectively remove smoke particles and odors." He recommends looking for "air purifiers equipped with activated carbon filters, as these are effective in capturing smoke particles and eliminating odors." These carbon filters are exposed to very high heat, which activates the material and increases its surface area and porosity. All the tiny pores in the carbon trap odors from smoke and other sources, along with VOCs, as they pass through.

An air purifier with a HEPA filter is also essential for those looking to remove smoke contaminants from their air. These filters feature a pleated design and have been shown to remove at least 99.7% of contaminants as small as 0.3 microns from the air. The HEPA filter can remove many of the contaminants from smoke, which can be between .01 microns and 1 micron, though most are closer to the 0.3 microns that the HEPA filters will trap.

**Room Size:** Refer to the product's listed room size to guide you toward purchasing a model with an adequate coverage area. The coverage area of air purifiers varies significantly, with some compact models only being sufficient for rooms under 200 square feet, and others covering 1,500 square feet or more. Using an air purifier in a room larger than the manufacturer's stated coverage area will negatively impact its ability to effectively purify the air.

In addition to considering the coverage area of each model, also pay attention to CADR, or clean air delivery rate, levels. Roberson explains, "CADR indicates the purifier's efficiency in removing airborne particles like dust, pollen, and smoke. Choosing a purifier with a CADR that matches the room size ensures effective filtration. If the CADR is too low for a larger space, the purifier might not provide optimal performance." Similarly, Remington Belford, an Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) spokesperson, notes, "Air cleaners often have separate CADRs for tobacco smoke, dust, and pollen. These pollutants are used as examples to

represent small-, medium-, and large-sized particles, respectively. Generally, the CADR for smoke is smaller than for pollen and dust.”

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**Maintenance and Filter Replacement:** Maintenance and filter replacement are important to keep in mind if you want your air purifier to continue working effectively. However, the specific requirements will vary between models, so it’s worth comparing each manufacturer’s recommendations before making a purchase. As a general rule, you can expect HEPA filters to last for about one year, while activated carbon filters require more frequent replacement, often about once every six months.

Comparing replacement filter costs can help you determine the costs of continued operation for each model. Some models with multiple filters or those that require more frequent replacement can increase your long-term costs. The pre-filter in many models is washable, which can cut down on replacement costs, but be sure to check guidelines for how often it should be cleaned.

**Noise Level:** As you shop, compare the noise level of the different air purifiers you’re considering. The noise released by the fans of each model can vary significantly. If you’re going to be using the air purifier in a room where you are trying to work, sleep, or have a conversation with others, you don’t want it to be loud and overpowering.

The noise level of an air purifier is measured in decibels, with some models having settings lower than 20 decibels (which is about equivalent to a person whispering from 5 feet away), while others emit 50 or more decibels (comparable to the noise of a refrigerator or an electric toothbrush). You can assess the noise level of an air

purifier by looking up its decibel rating. Just take note of whether the reported decibels are for the lowest or highest fan setting, as higher settings will be more effective at removing contaminants from the air.

**Energy Efficiency:** To minimize your utility bills and your energy footprint, consider looking for an energy-efficient air purifier. For the air purifier you choose to be the most effective, it should be left running all the time, so choosing a more efficient model can add up in terms of savings.

Some air purifiers have earned an Energy Star certification. These models are 25% (or more) efficient than standard units. With their reduced energy use, they have the potential to save you \$15 per year on utility costs. This can add up to over \$100 in total savings over the lifespan of the purifier.

**Additional Features:** Some air purifiers have additional features that may make them a better fit for your needs or lifestyle. For example, some offer different modes, such as an auto mode that will adjust the fan speed based on the room's current air quality or a sleep mode that will dim the lights and lower the fan speed. Some models help to further reduce bacteria or viruses through ionization or UV lights.

Other air purifiers are Wi-Fi-enabled, allowing you to control them through a smart app or other devices. Some even allow voice commands through Amazon Alexa and other voice assistants. With these smart models, the apps typically make it possible to adjust the fan speed, create schedules, or track the air quality in your space. Some other features you might want to look for include an LCD screen, filter replacement lights, and filter subscription services.

## Best Practices for Air Purifiers

Peter Mann, the chair of the Association of Home Appliance Manufacturers' Air Cleaner Council and the CEO and founder of Oransi, outlines several important considerations when using an air purifier for smoke. First, he stresses that choosing the right place for the [air purifier](#) in the room is key. He says, "It's best to put your device on a hard, flat surface. This ensures stability and prevents the device from easily tipping."

Mann also emphasizes that air purifiers shouldn't be put right up against a wall. For them to be the most effective, you should leave a minimum of 12 inches between the unit and the wall. "That's because this distance allows for optimal air intake and distribution, which prevents restricted airflow. Placing the device too close to the walls or big pieces of furniture can hurt the performance of the purifier, reducing the overall effectiveness of the device," explains Mann.

Finally, you must also consider the overall layout of your home and which rooms you will be using. Placing an air purifier in one room won't purify the air in other rooms, even those that are close together but separated by walls or doorways. Mann says, "Air purifiers are portable, so it's best to move them around throughout the day and keep them where you're spending the most time." While he doesn't suggest carrying the unit with you whenever you step out of a room, he says, "moving it once or twice a day ensures you're getting the clean air you need in the space you're occupying the most." If you have the budget for it, you could also consider purchasing multiple air purifiers to leave in the most utilized rooms in your home.

## How We Chose the Best Air Purifiers for Smoke

In addition to considering the ratings of professional reviewers and everyday customers, we also reached out to two experts in the air quality industry.

Remington Belford, an [EPA](#) spokesperson; Brad Roberson, the president of [Aire Serv](#), a Neighborly Company; and Peter Mann, the chair of the Association of Home Appliance Manufacturers' Air Cleaner Council and the CEO and founder of [Oransi](#), all shared their insights and tips for what to consider when shopping for an air purifier for smoke. Finally, we further narrowed down the list of product recommendations to ensure we had suitable options for a range of budgets, coverage needs, and preferences.

### WHY SHOULD YOU TRUST US?

Our contributors and editors have years of experience researching, testing, and reviewing products. [Deirdre Mundorf](#), the author of this piece, has covered the home goods space for five years. In addition to contributing to U.S. News & World Report, you can find her work featured on sites such as Bob Vila, USA Today, and House

Digest. [Marlo Jappen Porto](#), the editor of this piece, specializes in fitness and health-related topics at 360 Reviews.

## FAQ

- How do air purifiers for smoke help improve indoor air quality?**

+
- Are air purifiers for smoke effective in eliminating odor from smoke?**

+
- Can air purifiers help with cigarette smoke?**

+
- What types of filters are commonly used in air purifiers for smoke?**

+
- Can air purifiers for smoke remove harmful chemicals and VOCs from the air?**

+

## About Our Team



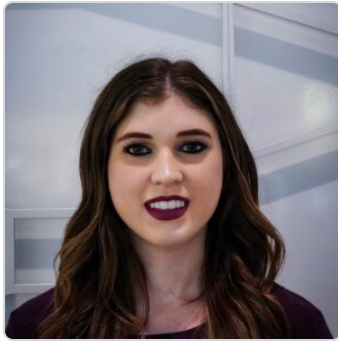
### Deirdre Mundorf

Contributor



Mundorf is a freelance writer who specializes in home goods, family, and pet content. She has more than three years of experience as a professional writer and her work has been featured in [Bob Vila](#), [Discover Magazine](#), and [House Digest](#). Prior to her freelancing career, Mundorf was an elementary school teacher for more than a decade.

[Read more](#)



## Marlo Jappen Porto

Former Editor



Marlo Jappen Porto is a former editor for U.S. News 360 Reviews, focusing on home goods. Prior to joining the team, she was a researcher at NBCUniversal, where she gathered compelling and relevant archival content for live broadcasts. In addition, she has spent years working as an editor and community journalist.

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