

Mold, smoke, and allergens can make their way into even the cleanest homes. If you have mold in your home (and many people do, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention), cleaning products alone might not be enough. We compiled a list of the best air purifiers to help tackle this problem. In short, you'll want a model that has a HEPA (high-efficiency particulate air) filter to capture particles and a carbon filter to reduce odors.

The Blueair 211i Max Air Purifier, which operates quietly and has a large coverage area, is our top recommendation. We spoke with indoor air experts to come up with options to suit a variety of needs so you can breathe easier.

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Best Overall

Blueair 211i Max Air Purifier »



PROS: CONS:

- Can be controlled via an app or voice assistant
- Can filter spaces up to 1,524 square feet in 30 minutes
- Expensive replacement filters

Buy From Amazon

The Blueair 211i Max Air Purifier is our choice for the best overall air purifier for mold. This air purifier has been tested against mold allergens (as well as bacteria and viruses) and has a minimum reduction rate of 99.9% in 60 minutes. It uses a washable fabric pre-filter to catch larger particles and a particle and carbon filter to capture mold, germs, bacteria, viruses, pollen, and dust mites and to capture odors. This unit offers a generous coverage area, meaning it can handle large spaces: It can clean up to 1,524 square feet in just 30 minutes.

Reviewers appreciate how this model – which holds a certification from Quiet Mark and uses HEPA (high-efficiency particulate air) filters. The air purifier's noise factor ranges from 23 decibels (dB) on low to 53 dB on high. It's also easy to know the air quality with the five-color air quality indicator on the top. Notably, this device can also be controlled via the app on your smartphone, which includes such functions as scheduling when it comes on and tracking air quality data. Voice control is another option. It's recommended to replace the HEPA filters every six to nine months, and the washable pre-filter should be cleaned regularly.

Specs:

List Price: \$349.99

Filter(s): Pre-filter, True HEPA filter, activated carbon filter

Recommended 635-1,524 sq. ft.

Room

Coverage:

Noise Level: 23-53 dB

Buy From Amazon »

Best Budget

Clorox Smart Medium Room True HEPA Air Pur...



PROS:

- ✓ Built-in timer
- Compatible with Alexa
- ✓ Lightweight design

CONS:

- X Small air quality light
- No noise level data available

Buy From Amazon

You may already be familiar with Clorox's bleach, which can help get rid of mold, but the company also makes air purifiers including the Clorox Smart Medium Room True HEPA Air Purifier. This air purifier can remove 99.97% of mold (as well as viruses, smoke, allergens, and dust) in rooms up to 1,000

square feet. It uses a pre-filter to capture large particles like pet hair, a True HEPA filter for mold and other allergens, and an active carbon filter to reduce odors. In addition, the air purifier has an ultraviolet (UV) light that kills any bacteria and germs that may be trapped in the filter.

Weighing less than 6 pounds, it's easy to move the air purifier from room to room, and the light on the front changes colors ranging from green for good air quality to orange-red for moderate air quality to maroon for hazardous air. The controls on the top include four speeds and an auto mode, which, when selected, comes on if the air purifier senses deteriorating air quality. It also has a timer that can be set for one, four, or eight hours, and a child lock that prevents kids from changing the settings.

In addition, this Clorox air purifier can connect to Wi-Fi via the Alexa app for remote commands. Regarding cleaning and maintenance, the HEPA filter should be changed every six to 12 months depending on usage. At least once a month, the filter pack should be vacuumed. Clorox also makes versions of this air purifier for both smaller and larger rooms.

Specs:

List Price: \$99

Filter(s): Pre-filter, True HEPA filter, active carbon filter

Recommended 225-1,000 sq. ft.

Room

Coverage:

Buy From Amazon »

Best for Large Rooms

TruSens Large Smart Air Purifier »



- Amazon Alexa and TruSens App compatibility
- Remote SensorPod to monitor indoor air quality
- Handle for easy transport

CONS:

- Noise level could be bothersome
- Large size may make it awkward to change filters

Buy From Amazon

The TruSens Large Smart Air Purifier can tackle spaces as large as 1,425 square feet. This device features PureDirect technology, a proprietary system that delivers purified air in two airflow streams instead of just one for enhanced distribution

It has a sleek design with a convenient carrying handle on the top for easy transport. The device comes with a remote SensorPod that monitors the air quality of the room and prompts the air purifier to respond accordingly. For instance, the air purifier will increase its fan speed if the pod detects a

decrease in air quality. To communicate air quality to users, a color-coded ring turns blue, yellow, or red when the air is good, moderate, or poor, respectively. The entire ring is visible from every direction, making it easier for you to see it from across the room.

The air purifier has three fan speeds in addition to whisper and turbo modes. It also has two-, four-, eight-, and 12-hour timer settings. In addition to the manual settings on the top, it can also be operated via the mobile TruSens App or Amazon Alexa. The unit's pre-filter should be washed at least monthly. The HEPA filter should be replaced every 12 to 15 months, the carbon filter every three to four months, and the UV bulb every 12 to 36 months.

Specs:

List Price: \$274.61

Filter(s): Pre-filter, True HEPA filter, carbon filter

Recommended 750-1,425 sq. ft.

Room

Coverage:

Noise Level: 32-66 dB

Buy From Amazon »

Best for Small Spaces

Coway Airmega AP-1512HHS Air Purifier »



- Smart capabilities
- Convenient carry handle
- Auto and Eco modes

CONS:

- Wi-Fi issues according to some customers
- No child lock

Buy From Amazon

Ideal for smaller spaces, the Coway Airmega AP-1512HHS Air Purifier can purify a 326-square-foot room in 12 1/2 minutes. It has a pre-filter for large dust, a True HEPA filter that can capture airborne allergens down to 0.3 microns in size, and an activated carbon filter that traps odor.

The control panel on top includes a color-coded air quality button that turns blue for healthy air, dark purple for unhealthy air, and red for very unhealthy air. You can adjust the air quality sensor from standard to low or high sensitivity.

The air purifier has three speeds in addition to Auto and Eco modes. If no pollution has been detected over the course of 30 minutes, the fan will turn off to preserve energy. With the Coway IoCare mobile app and voice control, you can schedule when the air purifier will run, start it remotely, and monitor

the air quality. The pre-filter should be vacuumed or rinsed with water every two to four weeks. The HEPA filter should be replaced every 12 months.

Specs:

List Price: \$299.00

Filter(s): Pre-filter, True HEPA filter, active carbon filter

Recommended 326-788 sq. ft.

Room

Coverage:

Noise Level: 24-53 dB

Buy From Amazon »

Best for Versatility

Alen BreatheSmart 45i Air Purifier »



- Quiet operation
- Various options for HEPA filters and panel colors
- ✓ Wi-Fi connectivity

CONS:

- × Heavy
- Expensive replacement filters

Buy From Alen Air Purifiers

While all of the filters for the Alen BreatheSmart 45i Air Purifier are medical-grade H13 HEPA air filters that capture 99.9% of harmful particles, you can choose from four different options: Pure (medical-grade H13 HEPA filter), Fresh (medical-grade H13 HEPA filter with carbon), Odor (medical-grade H13 HEPA filter with odor neutralizer), and VOC/Smoke (medical-grade H13 HEPA filter with extra carbon). Note that VOC stands for volatile organic compounds, which are gases emitted into the air from sources like paint, carpeting, aerosol sprays, and new mattresses.

Another feature that sets this air purifier apart is the variety of front panel colors to choose from, including brushed stainless, white, graphite, espresso, oak, and weathered gray. You can choose the panel color that comes with the air purifier initially, and the others can be purchased separately. These easily pop on and off, so you can swap out the panels whenever you want to change the air purifier's look. The purifier also has a handle to make it easier to carry, though it is rather heavy.

On the controls on the top of the air purifier, the display shows one of five LED colors to indicate the air quality ranging from very good to very bad using blue, green, orange, red, and purple. There's also an ionizer setting, which, according to Alen, is an ozone-safe ionizer that helps to remove even more airborne particles. However, if you don't want to use it, you can turn this feature off with the press of a button. The air purifier also has four fan speeds, in addition to an Auto mode. The machine can be monitored on your smartphone via the Alen Air app, which allows you to control the device and get air quality updates.

The pre-filter should be vacuumed at least once a month, while the filter pack lasts for nine to 12 months before it needs to be replaced.

Specs:

Key Price: Starting at \$429

Filter(s): H13 True HEPA air filter, H13 True HEPA air filter with

carbon, H13 True HEPA air filter with odor neutralizer, or

H13 True HEPA air filter with extra carbon

Recommended 800 sq. ft.

Room

Coverage:

Noise Level: 25-49 dB

Buy From Alen Air Purifiers »

Best Heavy-Duty

Dyson Purifier Big + Quiet Formaldehyde BP04...



- Features long-lasting filters
- Can be operated via voice commands, a remote control, or app
- Detects and captures carbon dioxide, formaldehyde, and other indoor pollutants

CONS:

- **X** Expensive
- Too large for some smaller spaces

Buy From Amazon

The Dyson Purifier Big + Quiet Formaldehyde BP04 Air Purifier is Dyson's largest and most expensive air purifier. With its price tag of more than \$1,000, it's worth noting that this unit's HEPA filter lasts five years and its carbon filter lasts two years, which saves you from frequently dishing out money to replace either filter.

The noise level at its highest speed is 56 dB. Though it isn't the quietest air purifier on our list, some of the air purifiers with lower noise levels cover

much smaller ground. The Dyson is pretty quiet considering how large and powerful it is.

In addition to capturing mold spores, the air purifier can also destroy formaldehyde (from flooring and furnishings), volatile organic compounds (VOCs), and carbon dioxide. It's built with sensors that detect such pollutants, and it uses a technology called cone aerodynamics to offer long-range projection (1,076 square feet). You can adjust the speed, change the direction of the airflow from 25 degrees to 50 degrees, and turn on Night mode.

The air purifier has the option of connecting to the MyDyson app to create schedules and monitor air data. It can also be operated via voice control using Alexa, Google Assistant, or Siri. In addition, the air purifier can be operated by a remote control (which can be magnetically stored on the front of the machine) and can be turned on and off by pressing the button on the front.

List Price: \$999

Filter(s): HEPA filter, carbon filter

Noise Level: 56 dB

Buy From Amazon »

Best Smart

Levoit Core 200S Smart Air Purifier »



- VeSync App allows you to control device remotely
- Compatible with
 Amazon Alexa and
 Google Assistant for
 voice commands
- High-efficiency activated carbon filter captures odors and fumes
- ✓ Built-in timer
- ✓ Affordable

CONS:

- X Small room coverage
- No air-quality sensor

Buy From Amazon

The Levoit Core 200S offers advanced features for a price that won't give you sticker shock. When paired with the VeSync app, you can control the unit from your smart device or phone. Schedule cleaning sessions and set timers (2-, 4-, or 8-hour intervals) even when you're out of the house. If you want to

give the Core 200S voice commands, simply sync it with Amazon Alexa or Google Assistant. When set to Sleep Mode, the air purifier will operate at a noise level as low as 24 decibels so it won't disturb your rest.

Aside from all of these bells and whistles, this device stands out for its performance. It has three layers of defense: a nylon prefilter for capturing larger particles, a main filter for tackling smaller particles, and a highefficiency activated carbon filter for reducing odors. According to Bethany Uribe, mitigation division supervisor at ASAP Restoration LLC, "It has a tight filter that captures everything from pollen to dust, mold and pet dander too. It helps with my allergies, and I can control it from my phone which I love."

Specs

List Price: \$89.99

Filter(s): Nylon pre-filter, main filter, high-efficiency activated

carbon filter

Recommended 183 sq. ft.

Room

Coverage:

Noise Level: 24-48 dB

Buy From Amazon »

The Bottom Line

A lot goes into choosing the best air purifier for mold. However, combining the suggested room size, simplicity of use, and the fact that it has actually been tested on mold allergens, we think the Blueair 211i Max Air Purifier is the best overall option. It operates quietly, can be controlled via smartphone or voice control, and

comes in several stylish pre-filter choices. In just 30 minutes, this device can filter spaces up to 1,524 square feet.

Things To Consider When Buying Air Purifiers for Mold

Filter Type: According to our experts, high-efficiency particulate air (HEPA) filters and activated charcoal filters combined provide the best purification for mold. "You need a filter that removes fine particles using HEPA media" and gases "through adsorption (with a 'd') or other methods, without adding harmful substances to the air in the process, and while treating enough air to stay ahead of the recontamination rate," says Allen Rathey, director of the Indoor Health Council.

He notes that the goal is to lower the concentration of airborne spores and mold fragments and not to eliminate all airborne mold particles: "Even dead mold can be unhealthy to breathe, but you will never reduce those levels to zero, as mold spores are everywhere indoors and out."

Rubino of HomeCleanse says that air purifiers for mold should meet HEPA status at a minimum: "This means they remove 99.97% of particles as small as 0.3 microns, which will ensure particles like spores are removed." If the air purifier can eliminate particles smaller than 0.3 microns, Rubino says that's even better.

However, Rathey says HEPA filters do not remove gasses like microbial volatile organic compounds (mVOCs): "This is the source of that musty smell, and purifiers using activated carbon can help remove these odors." Thus, it's best to find a unit that features both a HEPA filter and an activated carbon filter.

Clean Air Delivery Rate (CADR): The CADR is determined by multiplying the room's length and width to get the square footage. This number can be compared to the recommended room size. Not all air purifiers include a CADR, but when one is included, it's typically for dust, VOCs, and pollen – not specifically for mold.

"Mold spores are 'particles' that stay airborne for a long time, and while HEPA filters are good at trapping mold spores and other small particles such as mold fragments and pollen fragments, the air purifier needs to treat enough air to make a difference,

so you need to have the right CADR, a number that explains how large a room the unit will treat," Rathey explains.

Room Coverage: The suggested or recommended room size is usually listed by the manufacturer. Rubino says this factor should always be checked before purchasing a unit. "If the room is larger than the machine is able to properly handle, you won't get the filtering benefits," he warns.

Noise Level: Most companies note the air purifier's noise level. Some companies will provide a range such as 18-46 decibels (dB), which means the noise level is 18 dB on the lowest setting and 46 dB on the highest setting. Other companies just provide one number, which usually refers to the noise level on the highest setting.

Additional Features: Wi-Fi connectivity to smartphones and voice assistants is another feature that may or may not appeal to you. Some air purifiers also have timers, and some may have pre-filters and panels that come in an assortment of colors.

While some air purifiers also have a UV light to kill mold, Rathey says to be cautious about this feature. "Some companies tout other technologies such as UV light and electrostatically charged media, but there is no silver bullet as all technologies have limitations, and some technologies add their own pollutants to the air such as ozone," he says.

Maintenance: All air purifiers require some degree of maintenance. Usually, the prefilter needs to be vacuumed at least once a month, but depending on how often you use the machine, it could require weekly or biweekly vacuuming. The sensors may also need to be cleaned but refer to the owner's manual.

Air Purifiers vs. Dehumidifiers

Dehumidifiers and air purifiers have different functions. While air purifiers remove indoor contaminants – smoke, pollen, dust, mold spores, and pet hair, for instance – dehumidifiers remove excess moisture from the air.

Though dehumidifiers cannot capture mold spores, these devices can prevent mold from growing in the first place. According to the Centers for Disease Control and

Prevention (CDC), controlling humidity levels is an effective way to keep mold from growing inside your home.

If you've got a mold problem, some experts recommend using an air purifier and a dehumidifier in tandem for a comprehensive approach: the dehumidifier prevents new mold growth, while the air purifier eliminates existing mold spores.

How We Chose the Best Air Purifiers for Mold

At U.S. News 360 Reviews, we consulted with indoor air experts Michael Rubino, a mold and air quality expert and founder of HomeCleanse, Allen Rathey, director of the Indoor Health Council, and Bethany Uribe, Mitigation Division Supervisor at ASAP Restoration LLC, a water water damage restoration service in Arizona, to establish the criteria for this list of the best air purifiers for mold. We then narrowed our selection down with more thorough research considering performance, filter type, room coverage, noise level, additional features, and maintenance. Our list includes a variety of air purifiers at various prices.

WHY SHOULD YOU TRUST US?

Our contributors and editors have years of experience researching, testing, and reviewing products. Terri Williams, the author of this piece, has years of experience writing product reviews on home goods and tech products. She has bylines at Forbes, Architectural Digest, CNN, NBC News, Real Simple, Tom's Guide, USA Today, Better Homes & Gardens, Tech Radar, Daily Beast, and Popular Science. She's also on Popular Science's Best of What's New team. The reviewer of this piece, Marlo Jappen Porto, has been an editor at U.S. News 360 Reviews since 2022, specializing in the home and health categories.

FAQ

Can air purifiers help with mold?

+

How often should I replace the filter(s) in my air purifier? +

Where should I place my air purifier for mold? +

What else can I do to prevent indoor mold? +

About Our Team



Terri Williams
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Terri Williams is a freelance journalist with extensive experience writing product reviews. She has tested hundreds of products, including vacuum cleaners, TVs, audio equipment, computer monitors, air purifiers, bedding, and more. Williams has bylines in Forbes, Architectural Digest, Popular Science, CNN Underscored, NBC News, and USA Today Reviewed.

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