



## Dehumidifiers Buying Guide Quick Reference Handout

This guide will help you determine if you need a dehumidifier, the benefits of using one, what types are available, and what features to consider so you choose the best option to meet your needs.

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### Table of Contents

- What is a dehumidifier?
- Why you need a dehumidifier
- Signs you need a dehumidifier
- Types of dehumidifiers
- Key features to consider
- How to choose the right dehumidifier for your needs
- Top dehumidifier recommendations
- Maintenance and care tips
- FAQs



### What is a dehumidifier?

- A small appliance that remove water vapor from the air, reducing humidity in a basement, garage, kitchen, or nursery.
- Too much humidity can lead to mold and mildew, trigger allergies, even damage furniture.

### Why you need a humidifier

- **Helps reduce allergens:** Harmful mold, mildew, and dust mites can form with too much humidity.
- **Prevent mold, mildew, and dust:** Can cause health issues and attract pests.
- **Improve air quality:** A musty smell is unpleasant and can impact health and comfort.
- **Protect your home and belongings:** High humidity can damage wood furniture.
- **Cooling the air:** Works alongside an air conditioner to further cool a home.
- **More comfortable environment:** Don't feel sticky, sweaty, and hot.
- **Offset additional causes of high humidity:** Dryers, stovetops, and hot baths can create humidity; proper ventilation and a dehumidifier can help.

### Signs you need a dehumidifier

- **Feeling uncomfortable and muggy:** Even when air conditioning is running.
- **Musty smell:** If it still smells musty after cleaning, it's too humid.
- **Condensation on windows:** Dampness on the inside of windows.
- **Damp spots in other places:** Excess moisture on floors, furniture, and other surfaces.

### Types of dehumidifiers

- **Refrigerant dehumidifiers:** The most common type; ideal for warmer climates.
- **Desiccant dehumidifiers:** Ideal for colder climates, garages, and workshops; can operate at lower temperatures; some drain through a tube.
- **Portable dehumidifiers:** Smaller models; good for nurseries, apartments, home offices, small spaces.



- **Whole-house dehumidifiers:** Integrated into HVAC system; requires professional installation; best for large, multi-level homes, where it's hot and humid all year 'round.

### Key features to consider

- **Room size and capacity:** Three main sizes, based on room size and other factors.
- **Additional factors beyond room size:** Doors, windows, level of dampness, typical weather, how often people congregate in that room.
- **Energy efficiency:** Look for a model that bears the ENERGY STAR label.
- **Noise level:** Lower dB rating means they run quieter.
- **Drainage options:** Removable buckets for emptying or continuous draining through built-in pumps.
- **Humidity control:** Adjustable settings offer precise control; built-in humidistats sense moisture and run when needed.
- **Additional features:** Auto shut-off, defrost, castors/wheels, digital displays, built-in Wi-Fi, app and/or voice connectivity.

### How to choose the right dehumidifier for your needs

- Measure the room factoring in how often it's used and how humid it gets.
- Consider personal sensitivities, like allergies.
- Look at size, design, and features.

### Top dehumidifier recommendations

We recommend the best dehumidifiers for various settings to help you make the right decision.

### Maintenance and care tips

- **Regular cleaning:** Clean filter, water tank, exterior; if possible, coils and fan blades.
- **Filter replacement:** Change as indicated in the owner's manual.
- **Troubleshooting common issues:** Position tank properly, keep filter clean, check coil isn't frozen.
- **Proper placement:** Sit on flat surface to prevent leaks or noise.