

Choosing your system

Energy efficient equipment will cost less to run in the long term. If you have a choice:

- Select equipment that is the right size for your business, and make sure it has a good energy rating.
- Higher energy star ratings are only better if they're the most efficient model to suit your task.
- Use a zoned system to close off offices or areas that are used less often, like meeting rooms.
- The climate and the efficiency of your building, including its orientation, number of windows and level of insulation, have impact on the size of unit you will need. It is important to get advice on the right size from the supplier or installer before you buy.
- Inverter or variable speed drive models are generally more efficient and have lower running costs.

Choosing the right air conditioner

An air conditioner's cooling or heating output is measured in kilowatts. To see if the unit you're considering is too powerful or too small you first need to work out how big the area is in square metres.

Make sure you allow:

- 125 watts per square metre of floor area to be cooled in work areas
- 80 watts per square metre of floor area in lesser used areas

It will also run more efficiently if it's installed in a cool place out of the direct sun.

Helpful websites

resourcesmart.vic.gov.au

climatecommunities.vic.gov.au

energyrating.gov.au

✓ Quick Fix

Efficient systems work with the seasons. Set your temperature to 18-20 degrees during winter and 24-27 degrees during summer.

When it's warm outside, people wear less items of clothing – and they shouldn't have to rug up to come into work.

✓ Quick Fix

Areas that are unused or used for short periods of time, such as toilets and storerooms, don't need to be kept the same temperature as the rest of your business. Block the vents safely, and save your business some money.

For further information about improving the sustainability of your business please call Council's Economic Development Unit on **9243 8866** or visit **businessinmv.com.au**