

Operation and placement of Air Purifiers in Schools/Colleges

The air purifiers being provided by the Department are the Black & Decker BXAP62002GB model. This advice relates to this specific model of air purifier.



User manuals are provided with each device and should be kept in the same room as each unit for reference. **Please note – DO NOT turn on the unit unless you have removed the plastic cover from the internal filter and read the instructions thoroughly.**

Advice on placing the air purifiers within a room to maximise efficiency:

- purifiers draw air in from the front, so you can place them near a wall or in a corner
- the air purifiers require at least 20 to 30 cm space around the sides and the back
- place the devices away from open doors and windows
- place the devices in areas of low movement – this is often the opposite side of the room to open windows or doors
- do not place objects on top of the device

Advice for using the air purifiers:

- prioritise air purifiers to rooms that have been identified as needing support to improve air quality, in conjunction with a Co2 monitor.
- where possible, use air purifiers together with opening windows to augment natural ventilation. For advice on when to open or close windows, refer to Departmental Ventilation Guidance. [Guidance for education and childcare: coronavirus \(COVID-19\) \(gov.je\)](https://www.gov.je/guidance-for-education-and-childcare-coronavirus-covid-19)
- when air purifiers are in use, continue to promote air movement through available means such as open windows and air conditioning.
- The purifiers can be set on timers to manage daily routines for operation, however they also work bests on auto using a laser sensor to assess air quality around them and will change the fan speed accordingly.
- staff should perform hand hygiene after touching the device
- children should not operate the device
- refer to the user manual for all information relating to the safe operation of the air purifiers
- air purifiers should not be left operating at schools overnight.

Placement of air purifiers within a school:

It is important that schools consider how air purifiers can support the unique characteristics of their existing infrastructure and school community, noting that the purifiers are portable and can be moved to accommodate operational changes within the school.

Cleaning and maintenance of air purifiers:

Each school is responsible for the general maintenance and cleaning of their air purifiers. There are 3 elements of the purifier that require cleaning and/or replacement:

1. Surface: schools should clean the surface of the device regularly in line with the manufacturer's guidance.
2. Whilst cleaning do not use a wet cloth.
3. Check all inlets and outlets for dust and keep cleaning.
4. Take out the filter to remove from its surfaces, do not use a vacuum cleaner.
5. Do not wash the filter.
6. Ensure water does not enter the air outlet.

Single-use surgical masks and gloves are recommended to be worn when cleaning pre-filters or replacing HEPA filters, for general hygiene purposes. Hand hygiene should be performed after cleaning and maintenance.

It is recommended that air purifier maintenance is undertaken in a well-ventilated space, if possible.

Replacing the HEPA filter:

Replacement of the HEPA filter should occur when the device alerts by flashing red.

Replacement of filters does not require tools, they clip into the device behind the pre-filter (the pre-filter must be removed before replacing the HEPA filter). For further information on how to replace the HEPA filter, please refer to the user manual.

It is recommended that used HEPA filters are placed in a sealed bag and then disposed of in general waste.

Replacement HEPA filters will be provided to schools/colleges when required following 2200 hours of use. The unit will alert you to this.

Should you have any concerns or faulty units, please contact your Safer Return to School Lead at CYPES.