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How to fix delonghi portable air conditioner

Photo: istockphoto.comQ: There's been a mysterious, slightly moldy smell in my home all summer, and this morning, when our window air conditioner kicked on, I noticed that the odor unmistakably came from the unit. I know it's unhealthy to breathe air that contains mold spores but I'd rather not buy a new AC if I can remedy the problem myself. Is there any way to remove mold from an air conditioner? A: Mold does have a tendency to grow inside air conditioners that sit unused for a while. It's likely that mold developed in the unit over the winter and you didn't notice it until you turned on your AC unit this summer. And you're right to be concerned about the health issues this can cause: Mold spores produce allergens that can lead to sore throats, headaches, and various respiratory symptoms. While odds are the mold in your AC unit is not the scary black mold (Stachybotrys chartarum) that you've heard about, inhaling mold spores of any type can result in respiratory disorders. RELATED: 14 Surprising Places Where Mold Hides in the HomeSuccessfully banishing mold from an AC depends on where it's located. If the mold is accessible, you may well be able to remove it; but if it's growing in an area that's difficult to access, you'll probably have to replace the unit. Read on for the sleuthing tips and cleaning steps you need to bring clean, safe, cool air into your home again. Turn off your air conditioner to prevent further mold spores from entering your home. If you suspect that mold is in your AC unit, the US Environmental Protection Agency recommends turning it off so no more mold spores can circulate and contaminate your home. Inspect the unit to determine the extent of the problem. Unplug the unit, remove the front grille cover (most snap off but some are held in place by screws), and then pull out the filter beneath the grill. Grab a flashlight and inspect the inside of the unit for the signs of mold growth, which may appear as streaks or clusters of brown, black, or greenish stains, some of which may appear fuzzy. Mildew, a common type of mold, produces powdery gray or white stains. If you find just a few traces of mold on the hard surfaces inside the unit, proceed with cleaning. If it's filled with heavy mold growth, indicated by mold and mildew deposits that cover one-third or more of the surface area of the case and the internal workings, it's probably time to replace the unit (see below for the problems associated with heavy mold growth). Photo: istockphoto.comClean small amounts of mold from inside the exterior cabinet so that you can access the interior. Before you start, assemble your tools and materials and then don a dust mask, goggles, and gloves.MATERIALS AND TOOLS Available on Amazon - Screwdriver - Wet/dry vacuum with a nozzle attachment - Commercial AC coil cleaner - Garden hose - Dish soap - Bleach - Large plastic bucket - Scrubbing spongeRemove the unit from the window, using a screwdriver to remove the frame that secures it. AC units are heavy, so recruit someone to help you take it to your yard or driveway and place it on a concrete surface or on a large piece of plywood. Remove the grille and the filter from the firont of the unit. Soak the filter soak in a sink with hot soapy water to which you've added approximately 1/2 cup of bleach. Remove the grille and the filter soak in a sink with hot soapy water to which you've added approximately 1/2 cup of bleach. Remove the grille and the filter soak in a sink with hot soapy water to which you've added approximately 1/2 cup of bleach. 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Use a nozzle attachment to get out as much as possible. Spray the coils (U-shaped metal tubes near the front and the back of the unit) with commercial coil cleaner and let the product dwell as directed by the manufacturer to dissolve anything that's collected on AC coils. Cleaning the gunk on the coil sis crucial because it provides a breeding ground for mold. Spray the coils with a garden hose to remove the coil sis crucial because it provides and the spot where the electrical cord is attached. Fill a plastic bucket with a few gallons of hot water and about 1/2 cup of household bleach. Saturate a scrubbing sponge in the bleach will kill residual mold spores. Spray the filter that's been soaking in the sink with the hose to remove all debris. Allow the unit to air-dry completely, which could take up to 24 hours, before reassembling the unit and reinstalling it in your window. Take precautions to prevent future mold growth. Once you've had mold in the air conditioner unit, there's an increased risk that it will develop again despite your cleaning efforts. This is because mold spores could remain within the inner workings of the unit that you were unable to reach. The presence of dust in the unit to keep dust from settling.RELATED: The Dark, Dirty Truth About Household Mold (And How to Rid Yourself of It)In addition, don't shut off your AC if you won't be using it for a few days or longer during hot weather. This is a common practice when people go on vacation, but when the weather is warm and humid, mold is more likely to get a foothold in the AC unit. The air movement that occurs when the unit is running helps prevent mold growth. If you want to save on cooling costs when you're home, set the thermostat on your air conditioner to a higher-than-normal temperature. For example, if you usually set the temperature to 75 degrees Fahrenheit when you're home, set it 10 degrees Fahrenheit before you leave. That way, the AC will not run as often, but it will still cycle on occasionally when the temp in the house rises. This will allow air to circulate through the unit and reduce the risk of mold growing while you're gone. Replace a window AC unit that's filled with heavy mold. If upon your initial inspection, you discover rampant mold and mildew in the air conditioner, do not attempt to clean it. Visible heavy mold indicates that more mold is flourishing in places you cannot see or easily reach, such as within the fan motor casing. Alternately, you could call a mold remediation specialist to inspect the unit to see if it can be professionally cleaned, but the consultation could cost as much as purchasing a new air conditioner. Bottom line: It's unhealthy to breathe air contaminated with mold spores, so if you can't effectively clean the unit, it should be replaced. Some jobs are better left to the prosGet free, no-commitment estimates from mold removal experts near you. + Photo Courtesy: Andrew Lichtenstein/Corbis/Getty Images There's nothing worse than a night of restless sleep — plagued by the discomfort of trying to get comfy or find that right balance between too many blankets and not enough. There's perhaps no season that's more meddlesome to one's sleep than summer. Whether you're dealing with excessive humidity or a dry heat, high temps mean a lot of tossing, turning and sweating. Thankfully, no matter what your price range, we've got just the right products to help you beat off the heat, even while you're catching some Zzz's. You know it, and you love it — it's the window fan. This tried and true method for piping in fresh air is also a great way to ventilate your room and get the hot air circulating. Does it feel hotter in your room than it does outside? No worries. The easy-to-install Comfort Zone Twin Window Fan with Reversible Airflow Control can be used to push hot air out or pull some cool night air in. Photo Courtesy: Home Depot In addition to having both intake and exhaust modes, it's also a very quiet fan, meaning you won't hyperfocus on some disruptive sound while trying to count sheep. If you don't have a window that can accommodate a fan like this one, we recommend grabbing an equally affordable box fan like this three-speed model from Toshiba. Stand it up in your room or — lifehack! — prop it in the window as best you can to achieve the benefits of a window fan. Complete with luxurious, breathable bamboo covers, Qutool Cooling Bed Pillows are an easy solution for creating a healthier — and more comfortable — sleeping environment. These "chillows" use premium shredded foam, which allows the pillows to let in air. Better yet, these lifesavers (or sleepsavers) are also infused with temperature-regulating cooling gel particles, meaning all that comfy foam stays free from heat build-up. Photo Courtesy: Getty Images Even if you get a two-pack of these customer-loved cooling pillows, you would spend far less than \$100 — and that means you can take the extra step in outfitting your bed with summer-friendly accessories. If you've ever listened to a podcast, you've probably heard an ad for Buffy no, not the teenage vampire slayer, the comforter. Buffy's Hypoallergenic Eucalyptus Comforter is not only eco-friendly, but it's also perfect for hot sleepers who want to feel as though they're "sinking into a tub of whipped cream." Honestly, we're sold. If you're looking to up the ante a little bit, but you love the idea of a window fan-like experience we recommend upgrading to Toshiba's 6,000 BTU 115-Volt Touch Control Window Air Conditioner. With the power to cool up to 250 square feet, this sleek, Energy Star-certified bestseller features four fan speeds for cooling, plus four-way air direction that ensures even cooling, no matter where you're sleeping (or standing) in the room. Photo Courtesy: Home Depot Want to save on energy? Switch to ECO mode or try out some of the unit's other intelligent features, including the 24-hour timer, Sleep Mode and the Filter Clean warning, all of which help you personalize your experience. Cool, dehumidify and ventilate your home all in one — we promise it's a (literal) breeze. While you may associate Dyson with great vacuum cleaners, the company has a slew of other top-of-the-line products that can go a long way in improving your quality of life. Our favorites this summer (and every season, really) are these blade-less, multi-functional appliances that act as fans, heaters and air purifiers all in one. Photo Courtesy: Home Depot Living that apartment life? Try the Dyson Pure Cool Me Personal Purifying Fan (center). This ultra-quiet machine also cools the purified air, making it the perfect summer sleeping companion. In need of an option that works for larger spaces? The Dyson Pure Cool Air Purifier + Fan, TP01 (left) is an incredible, powerful, bladeless tower fan that cools and recirculates all at once. Finally, if bells and whistles are your thing, the Dyson Pure Hot + Cool Air Purifier, Heater + Fan, HP01 (right) is the one for you. This three-in-one appliance purifies, cools and heats air, making it a year-round must-have. Trying to cool a large space? Normally, that's not an easy task for a portable AC unit, but, lucky for us all, Frigidaire's 13,000 BTU Portable Air Conditioner is a cut above the rest. This appliance can cool rooms up to 700 square feet in size, and its handy wheels allow you to cart around the relief to whichever room needs it most. Photo Courtesy: Home Depot Equipped with a remote, three fan speeds to regulate airflow and a 24-hour timer to reduce energy waste, this portable air conditioner really has it all. The only drawback might be its comparatively steeper price tag, but if you're a fan of instant gratification, then the immediate relief this unit provides is simply unparalleled. Let's be honest—in hot, humid weather, it doesn't take long to feel like you're trapped in a sauna, and you'll do almost anything to get some relief. The COVID-19 outbreak and resulting quarantine reminded us all that it's not pleasant to be stuck at home without a reliable way to stay cool and comfortable. If you don't have central air conditioning or a window air conditioner (AC), a portable AC can solve your need to cool down in an instant. The best part is you can easily move one of these units from room to room, allowing you to cool off anywhere in your home, from your bedroom to your home office. Fortunately, several excellent options on the market are designed to fit everyone's different needs. Whether you're trying to beat the heat on a budget or keep a large room cold, these portable ACs can help you stay cool. The first time you install a portable AC unit, the process might look tricky. However, each model has specific step-by-step instructions on how to set it up easily and successfully. The standard portable AC unit, the process might look tricky. However, each model has specific step-by-step instructions on how to set it up easily and successfully. The standard portable AC unit, the process might look tricky. the exhaust hose in the window. With that being said, it's best to place a unit near a window with an electrical outlet for easy operation. Photo Courtesy: JMATEK Group/YouTube Also, make sure the window adapter kit and connected to expand or trim it. Once you secure the window adapter kit and connected to expand or trim it. the exhaust hose that's included in the package, you'll be able to plug in the unit to have fresh, cold air in the room. If you don't have a window, another option is to vent the exhaust through a wall, ceiling or even door (but check to see if a portable AC unit, check out this video guide by Honeywell. Now, let's go shopping. Looking for a good deal? You can spend wisely and still rest like Sleeping Beauty during hot nights with this LG Electronics 8,000 BTU Portable AC. Its price and size are small, but its performance is mighty as it blows big blasts of cold air to cool rooms up to 200 square feet. Even better, it has three impressive modes: cool mode to chill out and dehumidify, fan mode to circulate air and dry mode for those extra-wet days. Photo Courtesy: Home Depot Find the right setting for your personal enjoyment by changing the temperature, fan speed, cooling speed and timer. Too comfortable to get up to adjust the AC? No problem Use the handy remote control to get the job done (even all the way from across the room). Plus, its installation kit and hose make setting up this unit a breeze. Say goodbye to waking up in a sweat. With this AC, you can stay cool, comfortable and in control at an unbeatable price. If you're living the environmentally conscious life, the Whynter Elite 14,000 BTU Portable AC was created especially for you. Going green doesn't mean you have to sacrifice quality (or your budget). Approved by Good Housekeeping and Consumer Reports, this conditioner will meet your top needs: protecting the planet and cooling your home down. It's also free of chlorofluorocarbons (CFCs) and lead. Photo Courtesy: Home Depot Besides being green, this device is easy to set up and use. If you can't get enough peace and quiet, you'll be happy to know that this AC is as quiet as the dawn. And its useful features don't stop there. The unit comes with a programmable timer, digital controls, remote and wheels for effortless mobility. Its fun size and dual-hose system make it space-friendly and fast at fighting off the heat, so you have more room to stay cool and save power all at the same time. Cooling large spaces isn't easy unless you have the Frigidaire Gallery 12,000 BTU Cool Connect Smart Portable AC. It comes with a relatively big price tag — but even greater features and better operation. Designed for rooms up to 550 square feet, this unit features LED lighting and a modern mesh grille for extra style to complement any room. Tech fans will love this part the most: It connects to your Wi-Fi, so you can control your AC anytime, anywhere. Coming back home from a hike on a hot day? Use the Frigidaire app on your smartphone to turn the unit on before you strut through the doors. It's also compatible with Google Assistant and Alexa, so you can ask them to schedule the time and day when you want them to switch on the device. The future is here, and we're ready for it. If you have a small bedroom, office or apartment, your new best friend will be the Honeywell HL Series 10,000 BTU Portable AC, which cools and dehumidifies spaces up to 450 square feet. This unit handles business on hot days by combining a dehumidifying function, a three-speed fan and an auto-evaporation system. Photo Courtesy: Home Depot The full-function remote control makes it super convenient to operate the unit for those "sleep in bed all day" days. You get a lot of airflow for little effort. Plus, it's easy to move to different rooms and install if you don't want to commit it to only one place. During the hottest days of the year, the Black + Decker 12,000 BTU Portable Air Conditioner and Heater delivers a premium cooling experience for rooms of about 250 to 300 square feet, dropping the temperature as low as 55 degrees. Even better, the combo unit earns its keep all year round with a built-in heater that takes rooms all the way up to a toasty 81 degrees, if desired. Installation is quick and easy in any room with window access, but the unit itself sits on the floor on easy-to-move rollers for convenience. It's also easy to clean and comes with a remote control to help you perfectly control the temperature in the room. Additional Fan and Dehumidify settings give you additional climate control, making this unit worth every penny of your investment.

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