



Your Definitive Guide

To Air Conditioning for Apartments
and Listed Buildings in Manchester,
Leeds and the Surrounding Areas

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Read Up on How to Cool down Your Property

You have a beautiful home. It's almost everything you want in a property – great location and a luxurious specification - but when the summer months roll around, it becomes unbearably hot and stuffy!

After looking into solutions to this problem have you discovered that traditional air conditioning isn't a viable option for your property, due to the need for an external condenser?

If so, this guide is for you...

An Unbearably Hot Home



Despite many residential properties in the UK just like yours being built to a luxury specification, they are not fitted with air conditioning. Whilst you can look forward to relaxing in the warmth of your home on chilly winter evenings, as they are insulated to a high standard the summer months are very different - your home feels like a furnace.

Day after day in the summer, you can't spend your downtime relaxing as you feel hot and bothered. You struggle to focus working from home constantly feeling uncomfortable. At night, the temperature causes you to lose sleep. Simply opening the windows is not an option due to the pollution, traffic noise and the insects you will let in from outside. Even if you did open the windows, this cool air is often not sufficient enough to cool your property anyway.

Why Is Your Home So Unbearably Warm Even When the Heating Is Off?

Modern insulation requirements, the solar gain from large windows and windows that barely open (if your home is a new build) are the biggest reasons why Manchester and Leeds homes are feeling the heat.

There are a number of reasons why new-build apartments and redeveloped listed properties are not fitted with air conditioning as standard:



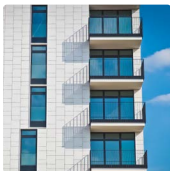
1. No Mandatory Requirements Under Current Building Regulations

With a goal of reducing energy consumption, current building regulations (parts L1 and L2) stipulate that developers must insulate properties to a specified level. However, there are no regulations covering the cooling of a property.



2. Planning Restrictions

New build apartment owners in Manchester are often not permitted to make exterior modifications to the building. In order to protect the character and appearance of the building, listed properties and properties in conservation areas are protected by law, meaning planning permission must be sought in order to alter the property's exterior.



3. Lack Of Space

Not all new build apartments have the same restrictions, there are buildings where external air conditioning condensers can be installed. However, the issue with these buildings may simply be a lack of space. It may be that you have a balcony, but you do not wish this to be dominated by the condenser, nor do you want the view from your window obscured.

The Secret Solution To A Cool And Comfortable Home...



You may have been told in the past that there is nothing you can do about the unbearable heat in your apartment or listed property. If so, you'll be pleased to know that this is incorrect and reliable solutions are available for cooling your property.

Let's take a look at each of your air conditioning options. We'll cover the space that each option is designed for and their respective advantages and disadvantages. You'll then be able to determine which one suits your situation best.

Portable Units



Portable units are single, inexpensive units that require little installation. They are ideal if you are looking to cool a single, small room for short periods of time. Plugging directly into a standard electrical socket, they work by extracting warm air from the room and releasing it via a tube through a wall or a flexible hose through an open window or door to the outside. However, they do have some significant disadvantages.

✓ Advantages

- Hassle-free set-up. The only installation requirement is proximity to an electrical socket
- Cheapest option
- Portable, enabling it to be moved from room to room
- Effective for small spaces

⊗ Disadvantages

- Unattractive
- Takes up space
- Noisy due to all working components being housed in a single unit
- Each unit is only effective for one small room
- Will not add value to your Manchester or Leeds property

Through The Wall Units

Through the wall units are also single units. Providing they are correctly sized, they will serve a single, small room well. They are fitted to an internal, outside facing wall, where two holes (between 162mm-200mm each) are drilled to the outside, together with an additional small hole that serves as a drain for excess condensate.



✓ Advantages

- Effective for a single, small room
- Quieter than a portable unit
- Slightly more aesthetic than a portable unit, as there is no visible air-discharge pipe

⊗ Disadvantages

- Specialist installation required
- More expensive than a portable unit
- Requires drilling through brickwork
- Planning restrictions may prevent property owners from installing this type of air conditioning.

If you are looking to effectively cool a larger space or multiple rooms, and/or wish to do so in a way that is aesthetically pleasing and adds value to your Manchester or Leeds apartment, then you will need to look at installing one of the following options.

Conventional Split System (With External Condenser)

If you are looking to cool a larger space or multiple rooms in your home and there are no restrictions placed upon your Manchester or Leeds property which prevent the installation of an external condenser, then you could install a conventional split system. However, you will have to have a unit like the one pictured below either attached to your property or taking up valuable outdoor



The conventional split system uses refrigeration pipework to connect an outside condenser to a ducted, wall or floor mounted unit located in each of the rooms that require air conditioning. However, as you will see in the disadvantages listed below, this option falls short if you own an apartment or listed building due to the restrictions placed upon your property.

Conventional Split System (With External Condenser)

✓ Advantages

- Often the cheaper of the three air conditioning systems for larger spaces due to mass production of the units and the availability of installation engineers
- Very effective cooling solution
- Will add value to your Manchester or Leeds apartment

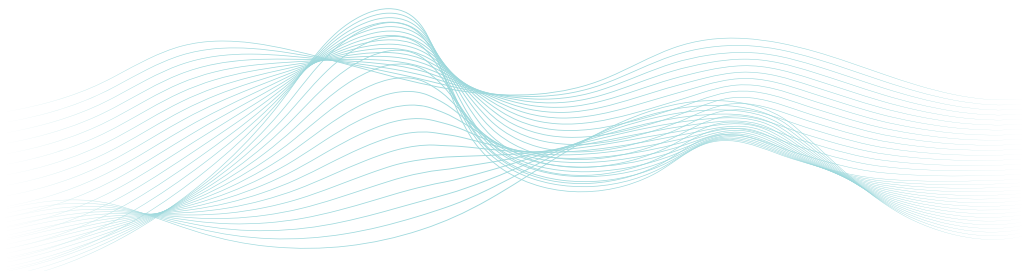
⊗ Disadvantages

- Most new build apartment buildings in Manchester and Leeds prohibit the installation of external condensing units – management permission would need to be sought (in reality, this is rarely granted)
- Planning permission would need to be sought if looking to install in a listed property (this is a lengthy process and permission is rarely granted)
- An acoustic report may be required
- Spoils the aesthetics of the building exterior unless you have an inconspicuous position for the external condenser
- Can be noisy outside
- Potentially costly installation and maintenance due to the nature of an apartment building - pipe length and scaffolding requirements for installation and future maintenance
- Disruptive installation period - installers are often inexperienced in the fitting of air conditioning in finished apartments

Hybrid Air Conditioning System (Balcony or Outdoor Space Required)



The next solution available to you is a Hybrid air conditioning system. This system divides the traditional bulky external condenser found in conventional split systems into two parts: a slimline external condenser coil and an internal compressor box. This innovative design allows the system to seamlessly integrate into your property while occupying minimal space.

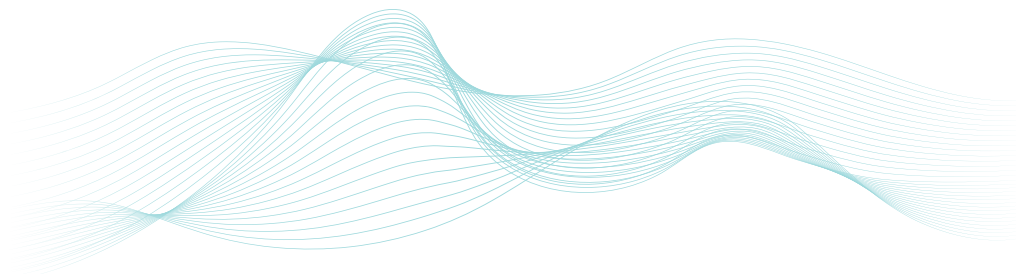


Hybrid Air Conditioning System (Balcony or Outdoor Space Required)

Built specifically for apartments with balconies or properties with limited outdoor space, the stylish slimline condenser coil effortlessly fits onto an external wall, while the internal compressor box maximises the dead space within your property by being fitted in a cupboard or utility room.

Essentially using all of the same elements as conventional split air conditioning, the Hybrid system delivers the same level of performance in a more aesthetically pleasing solution, while also providing heating for your property.

At Urban Cooling we offer a Hybrid air conditioning system called Incognito®. This system is the perfect solution if you live in a modern one or two-bedroom apartment, don't want an ugly external unit, and also require a system that can provide heating and cooling.



Hybrid Air Conditioning System (Balcony or Outdoor Space Required)

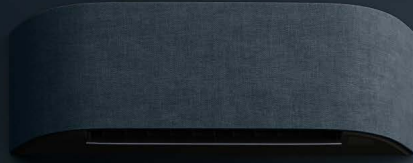
Advantages

- Provides heating as well as cooling.
- Protects the aesthetics of your property inside and out
- Perfect for cooling large spaces or multiple rooms - one condenser will cool up to three rooms
- Customisable internal and external units
- Requires minimal space
- No effect on your neighbours' properties
- Minimal requirement for redecoration
- An investment – will add value to your property/increase its rentability and rent value
- WiFi controllable
- Aesthetic design compliments your decor
- Very energy efficient in both heating and cooling modes.
- No noise pollution from the silent condenser coil.

Disadvantages

- In certain instances planning permission would be required to install the Incognito® system.
- Usually more expensive than the conventional split system – a consideration if you don't mind having a conventional external condensing unit placed on the outside wall of your property.

Fully Internal Air Conditioning System (No External Condenser)



For many Manchester and Leeds apartment and listed property owners, the Fully Internal Air Conditioning System has been a saviour. Being equally as effective at cooling as the conventional split system, it is now the most popular and comprehensive solution for homes that are restricted from having external units.

Fully Internal Air Conditioning System (No External Condenser)

What makes the Fully Internal Air Conditioning system different is the way in which the heat from gas refrigerant is dissipated.

Just like the conventional split system, the Fully Internal system uses refrigerant pipework, hidden within wall cavities or ceiling, to connect up the condenser to either ducted, wall or floor mounted units in each of the rooms you wish to cool.

However, unlike in a conventional split system where the condenser unit is located outside and uses air to cool the heated gas refrigerant, the Fully Internal system uses mains water instead. This means that the system only requires a water supply and waste drain connection and the condenser can be housed in a concealed place such as under a sink, in a utility room, within a cupboard or in a kitchen unit. This also eliminates the need to drill through walls or obtain management consent or planning permission.

The Fully Internal Air Conditioning system is commonly referred to a **water cooled air conditioning system**, because it uses water to cool the gas refrigerant rather than air.

Fully Internal Air Conditioning System (No External Condenser)

✓ Advantages

- Perfect where an external condenser unit or alterations to the exterior of the building are not allowed
- A solution without compromise where planning restrictions exist
- Eliminates the need for management permissions
- Protects the aesthetics of your property inside and out
- Perfect for cooling large spaces or multiple rooms - one condenser will cool up to eight rooms
- Requires minimal space
- No effect on your neighbours' properties
- Minimal requirement for redecoration
- An investment – will add value to your property/increase its rentability and rent value
- Cost effective
- Uses the mains water and the drainage systems that serve your home
- WiFi controllable
- Aesthetic design compliments your decor.

⊗ Disadvantages

- Usually more expensive than the conventional split system – a consideration if you are allowed to have/don't mind having an external condensing unit placed on the outside wall of your building.

7 Top Tips for Choosing the Right Air Conditioning Solution



Check for Planning Restrictions and Management Permission Requirements

As mentioned earlier, planning restrictions and management permissions are the biggest stumbling blocks for the installation of conventional air conditioning in Manchester apartments and listed buildings. In fact, the majority of Manchester and Leeds apartments and listed buildings are affected by these restrictions. This prevents the installation of either conventional air conditioning, where the condenser is attached to the outside of the property, or "through the wall" systems, where holes are drilled in the walls to serve as exterior vents.



Consider the Size of the Space You Are Wanting to Cool

The size of your property, how much of it you want to cool, and the size of your rooms will determine the type of air conditioning system, the size of the units and the number of units required.



Aesthetic Importance

Aesthetically, the air conditioning solutions on offer vary greatly. However, the cost does come into play here - the more aesthetically pleasing the system, the more expensive it is. Be sure to consider the long term, both in terms of your tolerance of the cheaper options and the impact upon the marketability for resale/rent of your property in the future. The right air conditioning will add value to your property and should be considered as an investment if your budget allows.

7 Top Tips For Choosing The Right Air Conditioning Solution



4 Installation and Running Costs

Having said everything about aesthetic importance and viewing air conditioning as an investment, the air conditioning that you choose needs to fit your budget both initially and in the long term. The initial cost of the units and installation is one consideration, but the ongoing operating and maintenance costs also need to be worked out and kept in mind.



5 Disruption

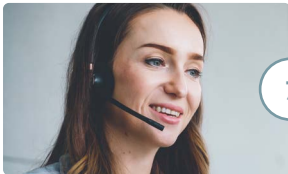
Depending on your choice of air conditioning system, the timings and levels of disruption associated with its installation will vary. Bear this in mind when making your choice, but don't let it be the reason to go for easy to install, portable options that you might regret in the future, just because you can install them yourself in 10 minutes on a Sunday afternoon! Again, think long term and schedule installation for an appropriate time.

7 Top Tips For Choosing The Right Air Conditioning Solution



6 Timing

Don't get caught out. Remember the impact of hot weather on demand! If you want your apartment to be cool for the summer, make sure you get your order in with your chosen supplier in plenty of time.



7 Customer Care

Be sure to do your research and find a company that offers a good warranty and after-care support. Read reviews to make sure that they also provide excellent customer care before, during and after installation.

If you've already been advised that you cannot have conventional air conditioning and had been left thinking that you had no choice but to endure several months of the year feeling hot and bothered, we hope that this comprehensive guide leaves you happy in the knowledge that you can think again!

What To Do Next?

Don't spend another summer overheating, move a step closer to achieving a cool and comfortable apartment by getting in touch today. Here at Urban Cooling, we are experts in air conditioning for apartments and listed buildings and would be delighted to help you achieve the comfortable temperature that you and your home deserve.



Call us On

020 8080 9708

And we will be happy to help you find the solution that's right for you. Alternatively, visit our website and complete one of our enquiry forms, and we'll get back to you as soon as we can.

www.urbancooling.com