

# IQAir named Apartment Therapy's best product!

IQAir was recently reviewed on Apartmenttherapy.com and was named a Best Product by the Web site's editor.

ApartmentTherapy.com is an interior design blog network providing a mix of news, store and product reviews, house tours, poetry and classified ads. It receives one million unique visitors per month and over 4.5 million pageviews per month. The *New York Times* calls Apartmenttherapy.com "quietly addicting." The Web site has been featured in the *New York Post*, *The Daily News*, *The Washington Post*, *Newsweek*, *Time Magazine*, and many other publications. Visited by homeowners, renters, designers, trade insiders and journalists looking for new ideas, Apartment Therapy readers are style conscious, early adopters and savvy consumers -- and Apartment Therapy's top editor, Gregory Han, loved IQAir's HealthPro Plus after putting it through some rigorous testing.

Excerpts from the article follow, with permission from Apartment Therapy. To read the full article, visit Apartmenttherapy.com at this Web address: <http://www.apartmenttherapy.com/la/best-products/best-product-iqair-healthpro-plus-047546>.



*You might be scratching your head wondering what that appliance to the left is. At quick glance, it looks like a main-frame computer, circa 1988. But inside the IQAir HealthPro Plus system's industrial case comes the most serious air purification we've ever tested. This past weekend we ran a battery of tests using a laser particle reading device in a*

*real world environment (our apartment), checking if all the hype about this machine was a bit of balderdash or really the mean clean machine promised by IQAir, pitting it against two other consumer grade HEPA air purifiers.*

*The IQAir HealthPro Plus comes with a long list of accolades, including top recommendations from Consumer Digest, Discovery Health, Allergy Buyers Club, Consumer Search, and Swiss based IQAir is an official partner of the American Lung Association. But although test lab results are a good reference when purchasing an air purification unit, the real proof is using these units in less than ideal conditions, which perfectly describes our 1917 studio 637 sq. ft. apartment in urban Los Angeles. Anyone living in our neighborhood will attest that air quality inside and outside the area is less than ideal, with dirt, dust, allergens and myriad of other pollutants a common irritant.*

*A shocking 2.5 million particles per cubic foot was our average reading outside our door in Silver Lake (a very slight breeze, 71 degree weather, moderate humidity); inside, our base reading was one third less, at 800,000 [particles per cubic foot]. In comparison, a hospital surgical room is kept at a minimum of less than 100,000 [particles per cubic foot]. We also took measurements in*

*different areas of the open apartment beforehand to see how well the IQAir HealthPro Plus would do circulating air in a non-enclosed environment, alongside testing the unit within a closed door environment.*

*Out of the (big) box, the unit comes fully assembled, and is ready to operate besides adding on four optional snap-on caster wheels. We had the unit up and running in just a matter of minutes. Once plugged in, we pumped up the unit to its highest setting, and like almost all HEPA air purifiers, at full speed the IQAir HealthPro Plus is loud. Realistically, most users will likely use the unit at a setting of 3-4 (6 being the highest), which provides sufficient air flow while also only creating minimal sound. It's also worth noting that the sound produced tends to blend away with some time, because the circulation motor has been sandwiched in between all the filtering elements, and also engineered to create a full-spectrum sound that flattens in short time (think of the din of a ballpark opposed to a smaller crowd screaming, as an example). The truth of the matter is that a sufficient air flow is required for circulation for optimal filtering, so finding the highest setting within toleration is important. Sleeping with the unit set at its middle setting has proven to be completely acceptable, and the unit may be even quieter in a carpeted environment.*

*The IQAir HealthPro Plus uses three independent filter cartridges, each specifically created to remove a minimum of 99.5 percent particles of 0.003 microns in size...that's the size of the smallest virus or bacteria, explaining why these units are used in Hong Kong Hospitals for SARS patients. The first pre-filter removes most particles, then this air is then pushed through a very tightly manufactured cell filter that removes odors and gases, then it is finally*

*pushed through the final stage via centrifugal fan through a true HEPA membrane constructed of several square meters of pleated filter, resulting in an advertised 99.5*



percent elimination of particles. In comparison, our two other HEPA air filters are advertised to remove 99 percent air particles at .3 microns or larger, referring only to the efficiency of the actual filtering membrane. Since 90 percent of particles fall under .3 microns in size, we needed to test how each unit performed filtering our apartment's air.

Finally, we put the particle scan up to all parts of the IQAir HealthPro Plus and watched the figure drop down in a matter of seconds, until finally, the unit read "0". [The other two air filters tested registered from 25,000-50,000 particles per cubic foot and 250,000 particles per cubic foot, respectively.] The triple stage filtering unit had removed all particles from the air (the laser unit could read up to .3 microns in size). This might have been the cleanest air I've ever breathed in all of Los Angeles and was impressive considering the unit was operating at setting "3".

We also left the IQAir HealthPro Plus operating for 5 hours in our apartment with the windows closed... The figures for before and after, throughout the whole apartment with unit set in the middle of the living room (setting "3"):



- Living room: 800,000/400,000
- Bedroom: 900,000/700,000
- Office: 700,000/650,000

When left in a closed door office for one hour, the IQAir HealthPro Plus reduced a 650,000 reading down to 130,000 at its highest setting, and that was in a room with a window air conditioner that lets in some outside air.

As impressive as all those figures are, what really struck me personally is the notable effect it had on my allergy prone girlfriend....In the matter of a day, she went from regularly hitting the old box of Puffs, to hardly requiring any tissue. Emily's allergies had subsided significantly, if not almost completely disappeared (funny, she didn't notice the change until I pointed it out, since she's accustomed to the sniffing as a regular aspect of her life)...As someone who lives with an allergy sufferer, the change was dramatic and immediately noticeable and illustrated how much interior air quality affects immune system health.

For more information on IQAir, contact them at 1-877-715-4247 or visit online at [www.iqair.com](http://www.iqair.com). ❖