

Small Air Compressors

A Focus-5 guide to help you decide what's right for you!

Sustainable Productivity

Atlas Copco



Small Air Compressors

FOCUS-5 Compressors



Portable air compressors are defined as the workhorse of building and construction sites because they supply compressed air to power all kinds of heavy tools and equipment. Therefore, it is essential to choose the right compressor to ensure that it makes you productive and runs as smoothly as possible. A portable compressor should be designed to overcome the challenges that workers face daily while offering a low cost of ownership. Therefore, you should look for a portable compressor whose design combines higher utilization, lower service and fuel costs along with a guaranteed buy back to ensure the value of your asset.

Here are five key considerations you should focus on when you choose to buy or rent a small compressor:

1. Canopy

You should choose a compressor that is engineered with a tough canopy. Manufacturers traditionally favoured metal canopies because of their perceived toughness. However, these have been gradually phased out by the introduction of plastic canopies which offer proven toughness and long-term resilience, along with resistance to corrosion and cracks, reduced weight and an improved environmental impact. Initially untrusted by many in the construction industry, the use of polyethylene is now widely accepted as the best material for compressor canopies. It is resistant to low and high temperatures thanks to UV stability and long-term antioxidants within the plastic. To minimise environmental impact, buyers should also look for canopies that are made from approved recyclable material.



2. Weight

The weight of the portable compressor will make a big difference when you need to transport it from site to site or move it within the working location where you are. Therefore, if you choose a unit that is below 750kg you will ensure that your compressor arrives on site when you arrive and you will not need any special driving license to tow the machine. This means that you simply rent or buy it and drive away.



There are now compressors that, thanks to the latest advances in air element design and smart engineering, are below 750kg yet still offer multiple options, including a built-in generator which can be up to 150kg lighter than comparable models.

3. A better use experience and options for everyone and everything

A portable compressor should be intuitive and come with the features you desire as standard. For example, look for features that guarantee starting, no matter the conditions. To achieve this, you should choose a compressor with features that protect the engine and maximize its lifetime. Also, it is advisable to select a compressor that guarantees simple connection for the hoses and no need for any clamps.

You also should look for a compressor that guarantees the quality of your environment by ensuring that no spillages can contaminate the ground. This is also key in maximizing your compressor's utilization. You don't want to pay for features you don't need – but you want them available if you do! Ask your manufacturer about the extensive range of options available. Useful options to look for include tow bars, aftercooler, tool box, air treatment, filtration, hose reels and non-return valves.

4. Quick Service

It is important that you look for a compressor with maximum uptime. If your compressor is being repaired, then it is not being productive. Therefore, you should choose a unit with a minimal service time, simple service procedures that can be undertaken without custom tools or training, and extended service intervals. A compressor that can be serviced in one hour, every two years, will help ensure that uptime is optimized.



Also, you should look for a compressor that has spin on filtration and easy access to all parts. Moreover, it is recommended that you choose a compressor from a manufacturer that can fully guarantee low service costs as part of a plan.

5. Improved fuel efficiency

If you choose the wrong compressor, fuel cost can be the highest cost over the lifetime of your compressor. Therefore, you should choose a compressor with improved fuel efficiency. Over the lifetime of the compressor the savings are significant. Another point to consider when choosing your compressor should be the question of whether you will be able to tow it behind a normal passenger car. If you can, you will not be adding extra transportation costs and this contributes to reduced CO₂ emissions.

Conclusion

No matter whether you are renting for a few days or buying a compressor for your own use or to rent out, the key figure is the total cost of ownership – largely made up of the areas highlighted above. For a compressor that helps you to achieve sustainable productivity, choose a unit that provides you with improved return-on-asset value. This means that if you have higher utilization, coupled with low service and fuel costs you can increase your revenue.



Portable Energy Solutions Portfolio

AIR COMPRESSORS

READY TO GO

- 1-5 m³/min
- 7-12 bar



VERSATILITY

- 5,5-22 m³/min
- 7-20 bar



Diesel and electric options available

PRODUCTIVITY PARTNER

- 19-116 m³/min
- 10-345 bar



GENERATORS

PORTABLE

- 1,6-13,9 kVA



MOBILE

- 9-1250* kVA



INDUSTRIAL

- 10-1420* kVA



*Multiple configurations available to produce power for any size application

DEWATERING PUMPS

ELECTRIC SUBMERSIBLE

- 250-16.500 l/min



CENTRIFUGAL

- 833-23.300 l/min



Diesel and electric options available

SMALL PORTABLE

- 210-2500 l/min



LIGHT TOWERS

LED



METAL HALIDE



ELECTRIC



Committed to sustainable productivity

Atlas Copco's Portable Energy division has a forward-thinking philosophy. For us, creating customer value is all about anticipating and exceeding your future needs – while never compromising our environmental principles. Looking ahead and staying ahead is the only way we can ensure we are your long term partner.

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