

PORTABLE COOLING FOR SPECIAL EVENTS

www.sunbeltrentals.com/climatecontrol

Outdoor events can occur on a year-round basis throughout the country. But as temperatures climb from warm to sizzling, portable cooling equipment at the venue can make the difference between success and failure. What is the best way to approach this challenge? Two words: plan ahead.

Most events are scheduled weeks, if not months, ahead, making it easy to assess your customer's cooling needs and reserve equipment well in advance. Take advantage of the available lead time to help your customer evaluate:

OPEN VS. ENCLOSED LOCATION: Will the event be located in a fully enclosed tent, warehouse or other sealed area, or will it be in an open space, such as a back lawn, courtyard or covered carport?

POWER SUPPLY: Will you be drawing electricity from an adjacent building or home, and if so, what type of power? If available power will not be enough for adequate cooling, plan to rent a generator if the budget allows.

HEAT LOAD: What time of day will the event take place? What are the average temperatures for that time of year? How many people will occupy the space? Will they be seated or engaged in strenuous activity? Will there be spotlights or heat-generating equipment? Take all these factors into consideration when sizing the portable cooling equipment.

As a general rule of thumb, we recommend one ton of cooling for every 125 to 175 square feet of tented area. Whether you opt for the low or high end of this range will depend on the calculated heat load and on the height of the tent. Since comfort is a big part of success, it is wise to build a little extra cooling capacity into the game plan.

When planning for tent cooling, the area should be as sealed as possible to prevent cooling loss. As you bring conditioned air into the tent, you will want to direct the air up toward the highest point, shooting it across the space before it is drawn back down to ground level by the return air duct to be re-cooled.



How much equipment should you plan to use? If the application requires three tons of cooling, you might be better off with two or three smaller units versus a single three-ton machine. Even though portable air conditioners are very reliable, and a reputable supplier will test equipment ahead of time, you might lose a machine due to component failure. If this happens, you'll be glad to have the backup.

For outdoor events in open areas, evaporative cooling is an option worth considering. These units use an internal or external water source to provide cooling and a fan to pull the air across the space. They are simple and cost-effective, especially for events where power is limited, since they can run on standard residential current. Evaporative cooling can bring a 5 to 15 degree temperature reduction depending on the outdoor humidity. It is not recommended for use in an enclosed tent, however, after a short time, it will start to blow hot, humid air through the space!

A final and very important step is to determine the length of electrical cable required to hook up the portable unit(s) to the power supply. The greater the length, the bigger the size needed to maintain voltage and current draw. Ask your equipment supplier to help determine the requirements, and also ask whether the required cables or extension cords are included in the cost of the rental.



Sunbelt Rentals, Climate Control Services is a leading provider of temporary, portable, supplemental and emergency heating, cooling and dehumidification equipment. The company provides climate control equipment as well as engineered solutions for a wide array of applications including server rooms, hospitals, commercial, industrial and event entertainment sites. Sunbelt Rentals offers 24/7 emergency service and support from fully-stocked locations nationwide. For further information, call 800-892-8677, or visit www.sunbeltrentals.com/climatecontrol.

Copyright © 2015 Sunbelt Rentals, Inc.