

Letting Water Drip from Air-conditioners is an Offence

Check and Maintain Your Air-conditioners Regularly



Dripping from air-conditioners is an annoying problem. Under the Public Health and Municipal Services Ordinance (Chapter 132), with effect from 17 August 2025, any person who allows his air-conditioner to discharge water in such a manner as to be a nuisance shall be guilty of an offence, and liable to a fine of \$25,000 and a daily fine of \$450 if he fails to comply with a Nuisance Notice, or a fine of \$50,000 and a daily fine of \$600 if he fails to comply with a Nuisance Order. In addition, public officers may enter a premises between 7 a.m. and 10 p.m. to investigate dripping air-conditioners. Any person who, without reasonable excuse, fails to comply with a Notice of Intended Entry shall be guilty of an offence and liable to a fine of \$5,000.

Air-conditioner users should check and maintain their air-conditioners regularly. If you find your air-conditioners drip, you should consult a professional to determine the source of leakage and solve the problem.

How to Prevent Dripping Air-conditioners?

- When air-conditioners are improperly installed, condensate may begin to pool and drip. Check to see if the unit is level.
- There is a drain hole for the removed water at bottom of most of the air-conditioners. Sometimes the hole may be blocked with dirt or other debris. Clear the blockage if it is obstructed.
- Consider installing communal drainage pipes at external wall of building for disposing of condensate from air-conditioners to prevent nuisance caused by dripping air-conditioners. If the air-conditioners are fitted with hoses which connect to the building discharge pipe or communal drainage pipe, make sure the hoses are properly connected.

- Some air-conditioners at bottom are fitted with trays during installation. Make sure the trays are properly installed. The outlet of the tray should be cleared from obstruction and a drain hose should be connected to a proper discharge.

What Happens If the Dripping Problem is Not Fixed Timely?

- Apparently your air-conditioner is not running as efficient as it could. In such case you are spending more for the electricity while the temperature of your house is still not what you wanted.
- The dripping air-conditioner causes nuisance to the persons who are living in the premises beneath you and also to the people in street.
- You are liable to be prosecuted for causing nuisances to others under the Public Health and Municipal Services Ordinance.

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