

This chart (see below) is designed to assist the consumer with the selection of the most suitable air compressor to operate the required air tools or equipment.

Pump displacement (PD)

Pump displacement is defined as the volume of air which can be displaced by the compressor pump. It is the measurement of the swept volume of the piston(s) in the air compressor pump when operating under load. It is measured in litres per minute (L/min) or cubic feet per minute (cfm). In practice the actual volume of air available for use is less than the pump displacement because all air compressors incur losses of efficiency caused by friction, leakage from valves etc and heat loss.

Free Air Delivery (FAD)

Free Air Delivery, is a term used to describe the volume of air, which is available for use at the exit port of the compressor tank. It is always less than the pump displacement and is also measured in L/min or cfm. FAD is a useful guide to the size of the air compressor required to operate specific air tools and equipment. For best results, the FAD of the air compressor should be equal to or more than the rated air consumption of the air tool or

To assist in comparisons, this chart converts cfm to the equivalent L/min. This conversion can also be calculated by simply multiplying cfm by 28.3 to give L/min or dividing L/min by 28.3 to give cfm.

Cubic Feet per Minute (cfm)	Litres per Minute (L/min)
5	142
6	170
7	198
8	226
9	255
10	283
11	311
12	339
13	368
14	396
15	425
16	453
17	481
18	509
19	538
20	566
21	594
22	623
23	651
24	679
25	708

Cubic Feet per Minute (cfm)	Litres per Minute (L/min)
26	736
27	764
28	792
29	821
30	849
31	877
32	906
33	934
34	962
35	991
36	1019
37	1047
38	1075
39	1104
40	1132
41	1160
42	1189
43	1217
44	1246
45	1274
46	1302

Table designed and supplied by the Australian Commercial Air Compressor Association (ACACA).