



WHAT IS A PRE-CONDITIONED AIR UNIT?

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While we may take air conditioning for granted, we rely on this essential modern convenience – not only does it make indoor spaces more comfortable but, more importantly, it ensures safety from extreme temperatures. Heating and cooling in an aircraft is something the Department of Aviation takes very seriously and is an important part of the sustainability and operations of the airports.



The large yellow and brown tube pipe filtered preconditioned air into the aircraft from the PCA unit.

At each of its gates, Philadelphia International Airport (PHL) has a preconditioned air (PCA) unit, which is an external heating, cooling, and dehumidifying device that provides fresh preconditioned air to the aircraft and jet bridges between flights. In the past, the aircraft's auxiliary power unit (APU), powered by the jet engine, provided the energy to run these systems within the aircraft.

The air is "preconditioned" because it is filtered and treated for temperature and humidity before it enters the aircraft. In addition to maintaining comfort for passengers as well as the flight and service crews,





13 years, and the airport is responsible for the maintenance and upkeep of all units for the duration of their useful life. The Capital Development Group at PHL plays a key role in managing this important infrastructure that keeps passengers cool and comfortable during the travel experience.

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