

Air Filter Checklist

What Is an Air Filter?

An air filter is a vital component of any heating or cooling system (in a home, at an office or store, or in a car). Originally designed to keep large particles from damaging a furnace or air conditioner, air filters serve double duty, cleaning the air you breathe as it circulates through an HVAC unit.

Why Does Air Filter Replacement Matter?

Air filters protect your HVAC system and your household from dust, debris and airborne pathogens. A high-quality air filter, replaced according to best practices can help to:

- Improve indoor air quality
- Reduce the occurrence of health problems, from allergies to headaches
- Decrease energy bills
- Increase HVAC system efficiency

How to Replace Your Air Filter

- Locate the unit's air filter.**
Your filter's housing location will depend on the type of HVAC unit you have. Consult your manual to locate your filter.
- Carefully remove the filter.**
Dispose of the used filter immediately to reduce the amount of dust and microbes that are re-released into the air.
- Write the installation date on the edge of the filter in pen.**
This will remind you when it was last changed.
- Install the new air filter.**
Pay attention to the arrow markers on the filter, as they indicate what direction to install the unit.

Air Filter Replacement and Maintenance Recommendations

- Choose a Filter with an Appropriate MERV Rating**
Minimum Efficiency Reporting Value (MERV) is a standardized method of rating air filters. Filters may range from 1-20 (17-20 are High Efficiency Particulate Air (HEPA) and not recommended for in-home use).

Home-rated filters come in the following ratings:

- Electrostatic filters: MERV 1-4
- Throwaway filters: MERV 1-8
- Cartridge filters: MERV 5-8
- Pleated filters: MERV 5-8
- Box filters: MERV 9-16
- Bag filters: MERV 9-16

We recommend choosing the highest rated filter that is compatible with your unit. Consult your furnace's owner's manual to determine which filter is right for you.

A poor fit or diminished airflow will be detrimental to your HVAC unit. If you'd like to retrofit your unit to include a higher rated filter, contact your local Aire Serv.

- Choose the Appropriate Size**
Air filters come in different sizes. Consult your owner's manual or measure your existing HVAC filter to determine which size filter you should purchase.
- Replace Your Air Filter Quarterly**
In general, it's recommended that homeowners replace their air filters every three months. Replacing air filters at the beginning of each quarter or each season is a good way to remember this quick but meaningful task.

If you live with an immunocompromised individual, are particularly susceptible to allergens, have multiple pets or live in a dry, dusty region, consider replacing your air filters more frequently.

**Schedule an appointment
online today!**

www.AireServ.com/request-appointment



From furnace repair to air purifier services, your local Aire Serv is here to help. Breathe easy knowing our service professionals are on the job. [Request an appointment online](http://www.AireServ.com/request-appointment) or call [\(855\) 679-0011](tel:(855)679-0011) to get started.

AIRESERV
HEATING & AIR CONDITIONING
a neighborly company