

Find Your MERV number:

MERV, short for “minimum efficiency reporting value,” measures an air filter’s ability to remove particles. Ratings range from 1 to 20, with higher values indicating better efficiency. Residential HVAC systems typically use filters in the 1-4 range, but it’s crucial to consider system limitations. Higher MERV ratings capture finer particles, but using filters beyond system recommendations can strain HVAC systems. Filters in the 5-8 range capture mold spores and pet dander, while those in the 13-16 range offer heavy filtration in hospital settings. Extremely high-rated filters (17-20) are used in clean rooms for pharmaceutical and electronics production. Consult HVAC professionals for advice on selecting the right filter for your home.

MERV Rating	Air Filter Will Trap Particles Sized .3 To 1.0 Microns	Air Filter Will Trap Particles Sized 1.0 To 3.0 Microns	Air Filter Will Trap Particles Sized 3.0 To 10 Microns	Filter Type & Particles Removed
MERV 1	<20%	<20%	<20%	Fiberglass and Aluminum Mesh pollen, dust mites, spray paint, carpet fibers, pet dander
MERV 2	<20%	<20%	<20%	
MERV 3	<20%	<20%	<20%	
MERV 4	<20%	<20%	<20%	
MERV 5	<20%	<20%	20%-34%	Disposable Filters mold spores, kitchen aerosols, hair spray, furniture polish, household cleaning sprays
MERV 6	<20%	<20%	35%-49%	
MERV 7	<20%	<20%	50%-69%	
MERV 8	<20%	<20%	70%-85%	Home Box Filters lead dust, flour, auto fumes, welding fumes
MERV 9	<20%	>50%	85% or better	
MERV 10	<20%	50%-64%	85% or better	
MERV 11	<20%	65%-79%	85% or better	Commercial Filters bacteria, wildfire smoke, respiratory drops
MERV 12	<20%	80%-90%	90% or better	
MERV 13	>75%	90% or better	90% or better	
MERV 14	75%-84%	90% or better	90% or better	
MERV 15	85%-94%	95% or better	90% or better	
MERV 16	95% or better	95% or better	90% or better	
MERV 17	99.97%	99% or better	99% or better	HEPA and ULPA viruses, carbon dust
MERV 18	99.997%	99% or better	99% or better	
MERV 19	99.9997%	99% or better	99% or better	
MERV 20	99.99997%	99% or better	99% or better	