

WHAT DOES MERV OR MERV RATING MEAN?

Your filters MERV Rating is a good way to help judge the effectiveness of the filter. MERV means **Minimum Efficiency Reporting Value** which was developed by the American Society of Heating, Refrigeration and Air Conditioner Engineers - ASHRAE. MERV values vary from 1 to 16. The higher the MERV value is the value the more efficient the filter will be in trapping airborne particles. Another consideration is air flow through the your HVAC system. Leaving a dirty air filter in place or using a filter that is too restrictive may result in low air flow and possibly cause the system to malfunction.

ASHRAE recommends MERV 6 or higher
 US Department of Energy recommends MERV 13
 LEED recommends MERV 8 at a minimum

See the chart below for filter MERV descriptions:

MERV VALUE	The filter will trap Average Particle Size Efficiency 0.3 - 1.0 Micron	The filter will trap Average Particle Size Efficiency 1.0 - 3.0 Micron	The filter will trap Average Particle Size Efficiency 3.0 - 10.0 Micron	Types of things these filters will trap
MERV 1	-	-	Less than 20%	Pollen, dust mites, standing dust, spray paint dust, carpet fibers
MERV 2	-	-	Less than 20%	
MERV 3	-	-	Less than 20%	
MERV 4	-	-	Less than 20%	
MERV 5	-	-	20% - 34%	Mold spores, hair spray, fabric protector, cement dust
MERV 6	-	-	35% - 49%	
MERV 7	-	-	50% - 69%	
MERV 8	-	-	70% - 85%	
MERV 9	-	Less than 50%	85% or better	Humidifier dust, lead dust, auto emissions, milled flour
MERV 10	-	50% - 64%	85% or better	
MERV 11	-	65% - 79%	85% or better	
MERV 12	-	80% - 89%	90% or better	
MERV 13	Less than 75%	90% or better	90% or better	Bacteria, most tobacco smoke, proplet Nuclei (sneeze)
MERV 14	75% - 84%	90% or better	90% or better	
MERV 15	85% - 94%	90% or better	90% or better	
MERV 16	95% or better	90% or better	90% or better	