

Which Whole House Furnace Filter Should I Have?

1. **Washable screen**, usually made of plastic (Supplied with new furnaces by furnace manufacturer) **Provides minimal filtration** and mostly to keep the inside workings of the heating and cooling equipment somewhat clean. Typical size = 20" X 25" X 1" and may be replaced with the same size filters listed below.



Maintenance: Regular washing every 1 to 2 months with warm water and occasionally detergent.

2. **Woven Fiberglass type** (throwaway) (\$2 from Big Box Stores)



Typical size = 20" X 25" X 1" Low air resistance and good for poorly designed systems having undersized ductwork. **These filters only remove the larger dust particles (big chunks).** Use these filters during the air conditioning season when maximum air flow is needed. Maintenance: Replace every two to three months max.

3. **Pleated filter fabric type** (throwaway) (\$10-\$20 from Big Box Stores)



Typical size = 20" X 25" X 1" Generic brands or 3M Filtrete etc. These filters are typically the most popular type due to availability and advertising. Maintenance: Replace every 1 to 2 months maximum.

4. **Pleated fabric type, High Capacity, High Efficiency filters** (throwaway) (\$10-\$40 from Heating/Cooling Contractors) Typical size = 20" X 25" X 2" up to 20" X 28" X 10" more or less. Maintenance: Replace pleated fabric box filter or deep pleated



media every 2 to 18 months depending upon the size (area) of the fabric filter media.

5. **Electronic Only High Efficiency air cleaners** (Professionally Installed by Heating/Cooling Contractors) (From Honeywell, TRANE, Carrier & others) **Effective at removing very small particles, i.e. smoke.**



Maintenance intensive! Touchy!

Requires regular, every 3 to 4 months cleaning via running interior parts through a dishwasher and/or self service high pressure car wash.

Best Choice

6. **Combination Electronic + High Capacity Pleated Media Air Cleaners** Professionally Installed by Heating/Cooling Contractors) (Aprilaire Model 5000). **Outstanding Effectiveness! Requires Minimal Maintenance! Great for Allergy Victims!**



Requires servicing only every 12 to 18 months. Light brushing of electronic elements and replacement of deep pleated fabric filter media \$45.

7. **Ozone based air treatment** is not for continuous household use. Ozone producing air treatment systems must be professionally installed for temporary use during flood or other significant odor remediation periods. There must be no humans or animals in the house when these high Ozone level devices are in operation due to the harmful effects of Ozone exposure.



Summary . . . Alex Walter likes number 6 best followed by the Aprilaire version of number 4. When economy is required along with moderately good filtration number 3 is the best choice. When low air resistance is required as with air conditioning systems number 2 is the best choice.



AW Alex Walter
Furnaces, A/C & More

303 - 695 - 1465