



What is a MERV rating?

Minimum Efficiency Reporting Values, or MERVs, report a filter's ability to capture larger particles between 0.3 and 10 microns (μm).

- This value is helpful in comparing the performance of different filters
- The rating is derived from a test method developed by the American Society of Heating, Refrigerating, and Air Conditioning Engineers (ASHRAE) [see www.ashrae.org  [<http://www.ashrae.org/>](http://www.ashrae.org)].
- The higher the MERV rating the better the filter is at trapping specific types of particles.

MERV Rating	Average Particle Size Efficiency in Microns
1-4	3.0 - 10.0 less than 20%
5	3.0-10.0 greater than or equal to 20%
6	3.0-10.0 greater than or equal to 35%
7	3.0-10.0 greater than or equal to 50%
8	1.0-3.0 greater than or equal to 20% 3.0-10.0 greater than or equal to 70%
9	1.0-3.0 greater than or equal to 35% 3.0-10.0 greater than or equal to 75%
10	1.0-3.0 greater than or equal to 50% 3.0-10.0 greater than or equal to 80%

MERV Rating	Average Particle Size Efficiency in Microns
11	0.30-1.0 greater than or equal to 20% 1.0-3.0 greater than or equal to 65% 3.0-10.0 greater than or equal to 85%
12	0.30-1.0 greater than or equal to 35% 1.0-3.0 greater than or equal to 80% 3.0-10.0 greater than or equal to 90%
13	0.30-1.0 greater than or equal to 50% 1.0-3.0 greater than or equal to 85% 3.0-10.0 greater than or equal to 90%
14	0.30-1.0 greater than or equal to 75% 1.0-3.0 greater than or equal to 90% 3.0-10.0 greater than or equal to 95%
15	0.30-1.0 greater than or equal to 85% 1.0-3.0 greater than or equal to 90% 3.0-10.0 greater than or equal to 95%
16	0.30-1.0 greater than or equal to 95% 1.0-3.0 greater than or equal to 95% 3.0-10.0 greater than or equal to 95%
High efficiency Particulate Air filter HEPA*	99.97% of particles in the 0.3-micron range Particles that are larger or smaller than 0.3 microns are captured with a greater than 99.97% efficiency

HEPA is a type of pleated mechanical air filter. It is an acronym for "**high efficiency particulate air** [filter]" (as officially defined by the U.S. Dept. of Energy). This type of air filter can theoretically remove at least 99.97% of dust, pollen, mold, bacteria, and any airborne particles with a size of 0.3 microns (μm). The diameter specification of

0.3 microns corresponds to the worst case; the most penetrating particle size (MPPS). Particles that are larger or smaller are trapped with even higher efficiency. Using the worst case particle size results in the worst case efficiency rating (i.e. 99.97% or better for all particle sizes).

All air cleaners require periodic cleaning and filter replacement to function properly. Follow manufacturer's recommendations on maintenance and replacement.

Related Questions

- What is a HEPA filter? <<https://epa.gov/indoor-air-quality-iaq/what-hepa-filter>>
- What guidelines are available to compare air cleaners? <<https://epa.gov/indoor-air-quality-iaq/what-guidelines-are-available-compare-air-cleaners>>
- Will air cleaners reduce health risks? <<https://epa.gov/indoor-air-quality-iaq/will-air-cleaners-reduce-health-risks>>
- What are ionizers and other ozone generating air cleaners? <<https://epa.gov/indoor-air-quality-iaq/what-are-ionizers-and-other-ozone-generating-air-cleaners>>
- Should you use an air cleaner? <<https://epa.gov/indoor-air-quality-iaq/should-you-use-air-cleaner>>
- Does EPA certify/register or provide lists of acceptable air cleaners or manufacturers/sellers? <<https://epa.gov/indoor-air-quality-iaq/does-epa-certifyregister-or-provide-lists-acceptable-air-cleaners-or>>

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