



Changing Your Furnace Filter

A clean filter might be the least of your concerns when you move into your new home. However, if you are wanting to maintain good indoor air quality and extend the life of your unit, we recommend changing your filter on a regular basis.

Here is why:

- A dirty filter makes the furnace's blower work harder, which will in turn affect your energy bill.
- A dirty filter loses the ability to catch dirt and dust, which compromises your indoor air quality by letting dust, dander, and even mold circulate through your home.
- A blocked filter can damage the unit, which will increase maintenance costs.

How often should I change my furnace filter?

For the most part, the conditions of your home determine how often you should replace your filter, which is why it's hard to provide specific guidance that applies to everyone. However, most professionals recommend putting a new filter once every 3 months. Yet, for houses that have recently been built, once every month is recommended.

Below is a list of the most common factors that increase the likelihood of needing to change your filter more often:

- Someone in your home has asthma or allergies
- There are pets in your home
- People tend to smoke in the house
- There's construction or heavy traffic in the area
- The fan on the thermostat is set to "on" instead of "auto" (This means air is passing through your filter 24/7, which wears it out faster than with the "auto" setting)
- The house isn't vacuumed very often or you have empty rooms (Dust that isn't vacuumed ends up in your filter, which is why it can get dirty faster than if you regularly vacuum your house)



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Spot the signs:

Nothing works best than pulling the filter out and checking its status. Here are some other signs, though, that can help you know when your filter is due for a change:

- Cooling/Heating inefficiency
- Reduced air flow
- Headaches, fatigue or tightness in your chest (especially applicable for people with asthma or allergies)
- Higher energy bills

NOTE: If you have further doubts about your unit's maintenance or want to schedule a service, we recommend contacting one of the local experts listed on the Lexington Village website.



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