

Minimum Efficiency Reporting Value (MERV)	Particle Size Removal Efficiency	Particle Size and Typical Contaminant	Typical Filter Type
13 ~ 16	75% to 95%	0.3 ~ 1 μm (micron) Cooking oil, most smoke, insecticide dust, face powder, paint pigments	High-efficiency filters Densely packed fibers capturing particles in air down to 0.3 μm in size. MERV of 13 brings 75% efficiency, versus a MERV of 16 with 95%.
9 ~ 12	90% to 95%	1 ~ 3 μm Humidifier dust, lead dust, nebulizer drops	Pleated filters (HEPA-like, HEPA-type) Extended surface with cotton or polyester media, usually 1 to 6 inches thick
5 ~ 8	35% to 70%	3 ~ 10 μm Mold, spores, dust mite, hair spray, fabric protector	Throwaway Filters Synthetic media panel filters
1 ~ 4	Under 20%	> 10 μm Pollen, dust mites, sanding dust, spray paint dust, textile and carpet fibers	Throwaway Filters Fiberglass or synthetic media panel, usually 1 inch thick
			Washable Filters Aluminum mesh, foam rubber panel
			Electrostatic Filters Passive self-charging woven polycarbonate panel