Furnace Filter Change Interval: A Quick Guide

What to check, how to swap it, and when to look again

Before You Buy a Replacement

1. **Check the size on the old frame**
   The dimensions are printed on the cardboard edge. Match them exactly rather than estimating.
2. **Note the airflow arrow**
   It should point toward the furnace once installed. Keep the old filter nearby for reference while you fit the new one.
3. **Decide on MERV based on your household**
   Pets, allergies, and a recent renovation are all reasons to consider a higher rating, checked against what your furnace can handle.

The Swap, Step by Step

1. **Power down first**
   Switch off the thermostat or the furnace switch so the blower stays off during the swap.
2. **Slide out, slide in**
   Remove the old filter, confirm the arrow direction, and seat the new one flush in the slot.
3. **Close the panel fully**
   A gap around the filter lets air bypass it, which works against the point of changing it.

What to Watch Between Changes

1. **Hold it to the light**
   A quick visual check between scheduled dates tells you more than the calendar does.
2. **Watch for weaker airflow at the vents**
   A room that heats more slowly than usual is often the first sign worth checking.
3. **Ask about filtration during a maintenance visit**
   A technician can flag whether your household's pattern points to a shorter interval.

Check it, log the date, and let the filter's condition guide the next swap.

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This guide is general information, not professional advice. Requirements, products, and site conditions vary by property and change over time. Confirm the details that apply to your project with a qualified professional before you decide. Just Air HVAC is not responsible for decisions made solely on the basis of this guide.