

## Changing Furnace Filters

A commonly overlooked maintenance task is to replace the filter for your air handler. Replacing the filter is important as the filters remove dust, pollen and other pollutants from the air in your condo, making it a healthier place to live.

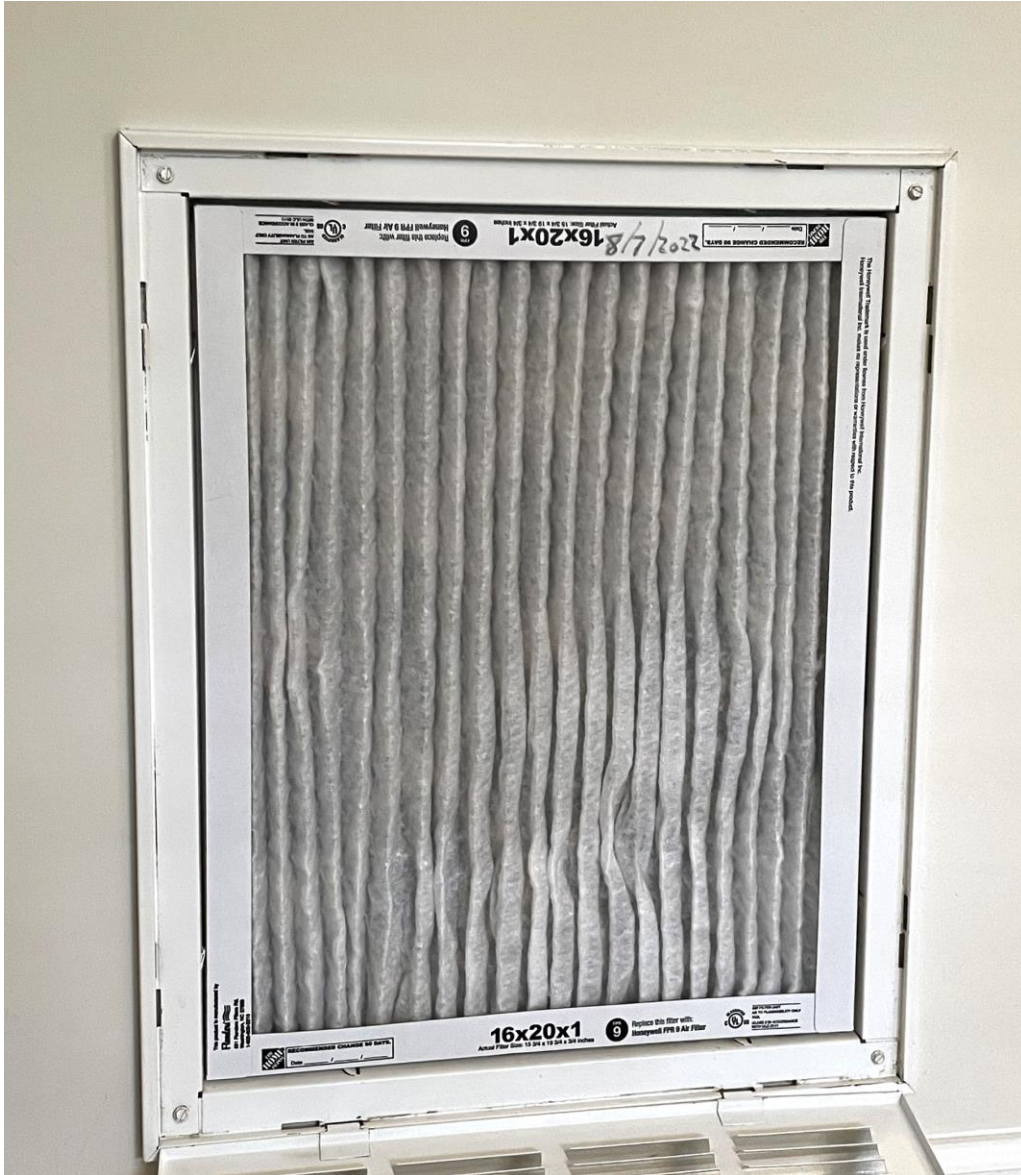
In every condo, typically next to the kitchen, is the filter cover, shown below.



At the top of the cover are two tabs which can be pulled out, as shown below.



Once the tabs have been opened, the door over the filter can be pulled out and down, as shown above.



The standard 16" X 20" X 1" filter can be pulled out and replaced. New filters can be purchased at:

- |                |                 |
|----------------|-----------------|
| Home Depot     | Lowes           |
| Grocery stores | Hardware Stores |
| CVS            | Walmart         |
| And others.    |                 |

Bear in mind that filters are rated in MERVs. MERV stands for **Minimum Efficiency Reporting Value**. Or in English, "how effective is your air filter?" MERV ratings range from 1-20. The higher the MERV rating on a filter, the fewer dust particles and other contaminants can pass through it. A MERV rating of 6-13 is recommended for residences. The larger the MERV rating, the larger particles it will stop.

The important thing is to change your filter regularly. Ideally filters should be changed every 3 months, but the important thing is to keep healthy by changing them frequently.