How to Clean Your Home’s Air and Water Filters



Section	Description	Key Details
Quick Answer	Overview of recommended schedules for cleaning or replacing air and water filters.	HVAC air filters should be replaced roughly every two months. Water filters vary by type from every three months for sediment pre-filters to every two to three years for reverse osmosis membranes. Regular maintenance ensures cleaner air, better water quality, and longer appliance life.
Why Clean Air And Water Filters Matter	Importance of maintaining clean filters for health and system efficiency.	Clean filters trap dust and allergens, improving indoor air quality, especially for those with asthma. Proper maintenance protects against bacteria buildup in water filters, improves drinking water, and prevents strain on appliances caused by clogged filters.
Types Of Home Filters And Schedules	Explanation of different types of filters and their replacement timelines.	HVAC filters are typically changed every two months. Water filter intervals depend on type: sediment pre-filters, every three to six months; carbon pre-filters, six to twelve months; reverse osmosis membranes, two to three years. Manufacturer guidelines should be prioritized.
Tools And Supplies You'll Need	Required supplies for cleaning air and water filters effectively.	Key supplies include soft brushes, mild cleaners, gloves, and optional tools like tire gauges and food-grade lubricants for O-rings. Avoid harsh chemicals and ensure proper safety precautions during the cleaning process.
How To Clean Air Filters	Step-by-step guidance on maintaining HVAC air filters.	Locate and remove the filter, inspect for dirt, and clean washable filters with soft brushes and water.

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		Disposable filters should be replaced instead of cleaned. Ensure filters are installed correctly, with airflow arrows pointing in the right direction.
How To Clean Water Filters	Instructions for maintaining water filtration systems effectively.	Shut off the water supply, clean the housing with appropriate tools, and replace cartridges as needed. Check for leaks, reseat O-rings properly, and flush the system to ensure proper functionality. Follow system-specific guidelines.
Common Mistakes To Avoid	Common errors made during filter maintenance and how to avoid them.	Using inappropriate cleaning methods, neglecting replacement schedules, and improper reinstallation are major mistakes. Regular maintenance and adherence to manufacturer instructions minimize issues and protect systems.
Build A Filter Care Routine That Sticks	Encouragement to establish a regular maintenance schedule for filters.	Consistent filter care ensures cleaner air, safer water, and longer-lasting appliances. Mark regular intervals for checkups and replace or clean filters as needed to maintain system efficiency.

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