

Standard 52.5 Minimum Efficiency Reporting Value								
MERV	Dust Spot Efficiency	Arrestance	Min. % trap 0.3-1.0 um	Min. % trap 1.0-3.0 um	Min. % trap 3.0-10 um	Typical Controlled Containment	Typical Applicaitons and Limitations	
20	n/a	n/a	99.999	99.999	99.999	< 0.30 pm particle size	Clean rooms	
19	n/a	n/a	99.999	99.999	99.999	Virus (unattached)	Radioactive Materials	
18	n/a	n/a	99.997	99.997	99.997	Carbon Dust	Pharmaceutical Mfg.	
17	n/a	n/a	99.97	99.97	99.97	All Combustion smoke	True HEPA	
16	n/a	n/a	95	95	95	0.3-1.0 pm Particle Size	N95	
15	> 95%	n/a	85	90	95	All Bacteria	Hospital Inpatient Care	
14	90% - 95%	> 98%	75	90	95	Most Tobacco Smoke	Smoking Lounges	
13	89% - 90%	> 98%	50	85	90	Proplet Nuclei (Sneeze)	Superior Commercial Buildings	
12	70% - 75%	> 95%	35	80	90	1.0-3.0 pm Particle Size Legionella	Superior Residential	
11	60% - 65%	> 95%	20	65	85	Humidifier Dust Lead Dust	Better Commercial Buildings	
10	50% - 55%	> 95%	-	50	80	Milled Flour Auto Emissions	Hospital Laboratories	
9	40% - 45%	> 90%	-	35	75	Welding Fumes	Hospital Laboratories	
8	30% - 35%	> 90%	-	20	70	3.0-10.0 pm Particle Size	Commercial Buidlings	
7	25% - 30%	> 90%	-	-	50	Mold Spores Hair Spray	Better Residential	
6	< 20%	85% - 90%	-	-	35	Fabric Protector Dusting Aids	Industrial Workplace	
5	< 20%	85% - 90%	-	-	20	Cement Dust Pudding Mix	Paint Booth Inlet	
4	< 20%	75% - 80%	-	-	-	> 10.0 pm Particle Size Pollen	Minimal Filtration	
3	< 20%	70% - 75%	-	-	-	Dust Mites Sanding Dust	Residential	
2	< 20%	65% - 70%	-	-	-	Spray Paint Dust		
1	< 20%	< 65%	-	-	-	Textile Fibers Carpet Fibers	Window A/C Units	

Sources:								
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https://www.serviceexperts.com/indoor-air-quality/remember-to-look-for-the-merv-rating-for-your-air-filter								
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