

ANSI/ASHRAE Standard 52.2 Minimum Efficiency Reporting Value (MERV)	Application Guidelines		
	Typical Controlled Contaminant	Typical Application and Limitations	Typical Air Filter/ Cleaner Type
16	.3 - 1.0 µm Particle Size	Hospital inpatient care	Pocket Filters 12-36 in. (300 to 900mm) deep, 6 to 12 pockets. Rigid Box/Cell Style Filter 6 to 12 in. (150 to 300 mm).
15	All Bacteria	General surgery	
14	Most tobacco smoke	Smoking lounges	
13	Droplet nuclei (sneeze)	Superior commercial buildings	
12	1.0 - 3.0 µm Particle Size	Superior residential	Pocket Filters 12-36 in. (300 to 900mm) deep, 6 to 12 pockets. Rigid Box/Cell Style Filter 6 to 12 in. (150 to 300 mm).
11	Legionella	Better commercial buildings	
10	Humidifier dust	Hospital laboratories	
9	Lead dust		
8	3.0 - 10.0 µm Particle Size	Commercial buildings	Pleated Filters Disposable, extended surface 1 to 5 in (25 to 125 mm). Cartridge Filters Graded density cube or pocket filters, lofted synthetic media Throwaway Disposable synthetic media panel filters
7	Mold	Better residential	
6	Spores	Industrial workplaces	
5	Dusting aids	Paint booth inlet air	
4	>10.0 µm Particle Size	Minimum filtration	Throwaway Disposable fiberglass or synthetic panel filters Washable Aluminum mesh, latex coated natural fibers, or foam rubber panel filters Electrostatic self charging (passive) woven polypropylene panel filter
3	Pollen	Residential	
2	Sanding dust	Window air conditioners	
1	Textile fibers		
	Carpet fibers		
	Paint overspray		