

October 19, 2020

Dear Wise Wayne;

We have had discussions with our clients on how to make their facilities healthier and one of the frequent topics is filtration and what should they be doing to improve it. Questions regarding MERV ratings for filters have definitely entered the conversations and we were wondering if you could explain some of the important facts about MERV ratings and what the differences are.

*Sincerely,*

*Long time follower*

Dear long-time follower;

MERV stands for Minimum Efficiency Reporting Value and is used to evaluate the efficiency of an air filter based on how effective it is at catching particles of varying sizes. Basically, the higher the MERV rating, the higher the air filtration capabilities of a particular filter. The typical filter in a commercial building has a MERV rating of between 3 & 8. Many experts are advocating to install filters with a MERV 13 rating or better as the efficiency increases for filtering smaller particulate matter from approximately 20% to > 90% and these filters could also help contain bacteria and virus carriers. The considerations that need to be taken when increasing the MERV rating of building filtration is the equipment design as there could be an issue with airflow because of increased restrictions, frequent filter changes, cost for filters which are more than double as well as availability as MERV 13 filters currently have a 6-8 week or longer delivery because of demand. Another option would be adding Needlepoint Bipolar Ionization to the air handling equipment. NPBI produces positive and negative ions which attract particulate matter and create larger particles that can then be filtered. Studies have shown that a MERV 8 filter with NPBI is as effective for filtering particulate as a MERV 13 filter. It can also neutralize odours and help to contain, mould, bacteria and viruses. I hope this information is useful in your quest to improve the health of your customers buildings. Remember to always confirm information with your manufacturers and suppliers of filters and indoor air quality equipment.

*Sincerely,*

*Wise Wayne*