



FilterTalk

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1 in every 4 Americans suffer from asthma and/or allergies at a treatment cost of nearly \$7 billion annually

- Asthma and Allergy Foundation of America

TAKE CONTROL OF ALLERGY SEASON



Spring is here. April showers have brought May flowers. But along with those flowers have come a number of unwelcome allergens that make their way into our homes and offices.

Clean air is just as important inside as out. Recent research has found that the quality of air in our homes and offices is often three to five times worse than the outdoor air. For those suffering from asthma or similar illnesses, clean air can be a matter of life or death. Without a sufficient HVAC filtration system, dirty outdoor air or allergies can get trapped inside a building. This takes a toll on our health, whether it's asthma, sneezing, coughing or runny noses. Ah, the sounds of spring. Pass the Kleenex and decongestants.

Breathing clean air affords your immune system the time it needs to rest and rejuvenate. Just as you need sleep, your immune system needs to rest in order to function properly.

The major indoor culprits are pollen, pet dander, dust mites, and smoke particles from tobacco. Fortunately, the solution for the home or office is relatively simple.

High-efficiency air filters, ranging from MERV 11 to HEPA efficiencies, are the logical choice to improve overall air quality. Filters in this efficiency range are extremely effective in removing airborne allergens, many up to 100 percent. High efficiency filters with low resistance to air flow are now widely available for use in almost any indoor air environment. Even HEPA filters, which were traditionally used in hospitals and sterile manufacturing facilities, are available for commercial buildings and residential applications. Today a number high efficiency filters are available for consumer use and at a fraction of the cost from yester-year.

Sometimes opening the windows can be helpful – weather permitting – especially when you're vacuuming. Fresh air and ventilation dilute indoor air pollutants. Of course, if you or anyone in your home or office suffers from major allergies, you'll want to keep the windows closed and let the air filters do their job.

When the temperature or pollen count is high, both of which can fluctuate on a daily basis, turn up your air conditioner. But be warned, an old A/C system could make indoor air worse if not properly tuned-up.

When operating an air conditioning system or single unit it is crucial to use filters with MERV ratings of 11 or higher for maximum efficiency. You should pay particular attention to your filters' lifespans, so you know how often they need to be changed out or cleaned. Basic home units should have their filters changed every month to maintain optimum air flow and efficiency. A clogged, or dirty filter can diminish your AC units ability to cool and clean the air.

This is the perfect time of year to check the filters in your HVAC system or standard air conditioning unit. It could be the solution to your seasonal allergies and is often overlooked. Like the saying goes, "out of sight, out of mind." A new filter could pay for itself quickly by saving you trips to the drug store for over-the-counter remedies but its value is greater than that. Any allergy sufferer will say it's hard to put a price on breathing easy.

As many as 19,000 dust mites can be found in a single gram of dust

- American College of Allergy, Asthma & Immunology

Approximately 75 percent of all allergy sufferers have indoor/outdoor allergies as their primary sensitivity

- Asthma and Allergy Foundation of America

FORWARD THINKING

Filtration Group has been making a lot of changes since it acquired the Dutch filtration manufacturer Filtrair last summer. Filtration Group's global expansion and surge of new products and services has led the company to a period of continued growth and welcome alterations.

Brandon Ost Promoted to COO

Brandon Ost, general manager of High Purity Products (HPP), was recently named chief operating officer (COO). He will retain his current position during the transition period. Brandon's goal is to create a pervasive, customer-centric culture of continuous improvement and operational excellence.

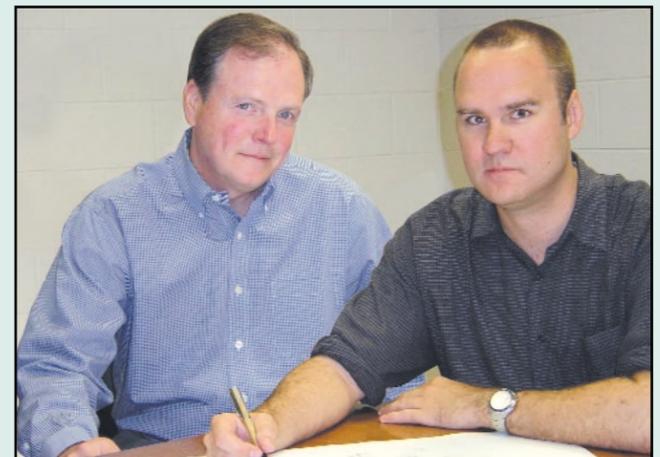
"My primary objective will be to continue Filtration Group's profitable growth trend through operational excellence and finding creative ways to make the company indispensable to our customers," said Brandon Ost.

Lynch Hired to Dual Positions

In late March the company hired Kevin Lynch as executive vice president of Filtration Group and president of Filtrair.

Lynch will play a large role in both companies. He will take control of the overall leadership of Filtrair while also being tasked with driving the sales and marketing for Filtration Group. His vast knowledge of the filtration media market,

along with his international sales and marketing experience, provide expertise to continue Filtration Group's aggressive worldwide growth.



Kevin Lynch, pictured at left, with Brandon Ost

"We're in a period of rapid expansion, more than 500 percent in the last 15 years, and it's the right time for these guys to step in and keep the momentum," said Larry Ost. "Together Brandon and Kevin will help carry on the success of both our companies and solidify our future in the industry."





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GOT A QUESTION FOR US?

Q: What level of air filtration efficiency is necessary to remove pollens and other allergens from an indoor environment?

A: Allergens come in many different shapes and sizes. Some common allergens, such as most pollens and plant spores, range in size from 1 to 100 microns (μm), while others such as paint pigments and tobacco smoke particles are relatively small (see chart below). A MERV 8 filter can effectively capture 3 ~10 μm particles at 70 percent or greater efficiency, while a typical MERV 11 filter can capture 0.7~1 μm and 3 ~ 4 μm particles at > 50% and > 95% efficiency, respectively. That means a MERV 11 filter can remove more than 95 percent of common plant pollens in one air pass. Our tests clearly indicate that a properly chosen air filter can significantly reduce airborne allergens or particles.

Common allergens	Approx. size
Paint pigment	0.1 ~ 6.0 μm
Tobacco smoke	0.09 ~1.0 μm
Plant pollens	15.0 – 25.0 μm
Common fungal spores	2.0 – 10.0 μm
Cockroach antigens	Most > 10.0 μm
Dust mite allergens	Most > 11.0 μm
Insecticide dust:	0.5 – 10.0 μm
Many bioaerosols	1.0 μm and up

(Clearing the Air, Asthma and Indoor Exposure by Institute of Medicine, 2000; and other resources)

PRODUCT SPOTLIGHT: SPRINGING INTO ACTION

You could clean your home or office to a spotless shine this spring but the invisible adversary, dirty air, is a greater concern.



Filtration Group's Series 1100 line of pleated filters will make the grade in any indoor environment. From the living room to an executive boardroom, these MERV 11 filters will assist in keeping the air allergy-free.

The media is chemically bonded to a metal grid on the air-exiting side to prevent fluttering and maintain pleat uniformity. The filter pack is enclosed in a heavy-duty, moisture resistant, die-cut frame that will not warp, crack or distort under normal operating conditions – extending its life and lowering operating costs.

Diagonal front and back media retainers are integral parts of the filter frame's unique design. This media pack is bonded to every inch of the frame, preventing any possibility of air by-pass.

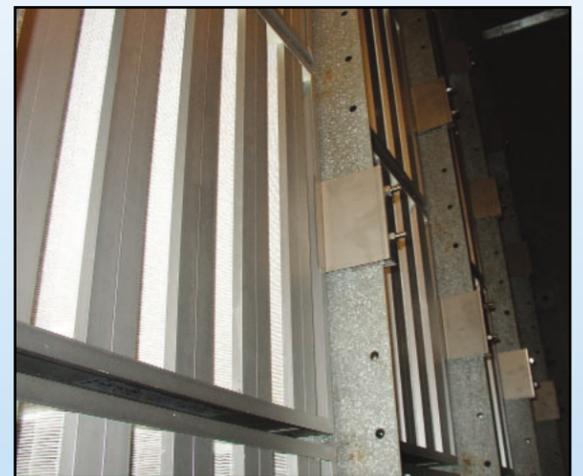
This filter can be used without modification in side-access housing or built-up filter bank. They offer better efficiency than conventional permanent or disposable flat filters. The Series 1100, when used as a pre-filter, substantially extends the life of more expensive high efficiency filters. They are perfect for residential, commercial and industrial use.

Expect to save money on tissues and eye drops with the Series 1100 as your allergy defense system.

FILTRATION GROUP AND HYGIENEERING SAVE CHICAGO HOSPITAL \$300,000 ANNUALLY

Northwestern Memorial Hospital, one of the country's premier academic medical centers, utilizes a sophisticated HVAC system to provide high quality air for its patients. The Chicago facility maintains individually controlled isolation rooms to prevent the spread of airborne diseases, like TB, and an aggressive positive air flow in its surgical rooms. A series of airlocks around the surgical rooms secures the sterile environment.

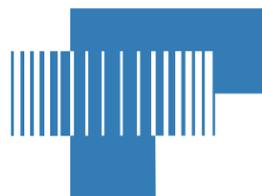
Since the first day that Northwestern Memorial moved into its brand new building in downtown Chicago in May 1999, there had been a costly hitch in the air handling system. The HVAC cooling coils had to be situated just inches from the 2,000 cfm HEPA filters, causing an undue amount of moisture to build up on the filter frame and the filter media. Change-outs were expensive and frequent – even more so during the humid Chicago summers. The 1,600 HEPA



filters situated throughout 22 air-handling units in the hospital were effective in catching the airborne contaminants but their high pressure drop was leading to high utility bills.

In 2004, David Stout, Northwestern's director of facilities and engineering, opened up the bidding for new filters and service. Hygieneering, based Willowbrook, Ill., and specializing in environmental engineering, offered to fully investigate and evaluate the air filtration system before recommending a product.

After studying the moisture problem its experts suggested Filtration Group's High Volume HEPA, a versatile 2,400 cfm filter with an extruded aluminum frame that doesn't corrode under wet conditions. Not only do the filters have an extended lifecycle, which drastically cut the number of change-outs, but their lower pressure drop is saving Northwestern Memorial Hospital \$300,000 annually on energy costs.



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