

**Skill Level: BEGINNER** These how-to's are suitable for people who are new to DIY and who have a basic knowledge of tools. If you've painted a room or re-potted a plant, you can probably complete one of these projects by yourself in a few hours or less.

A healthy home starts with the air we breathe—and air filters in our homes can help clean the air. But having air filters is only half the answer to better air quality. The other half is keeping those filters working efficiently. With these tips you can help improve the air quality in your home so that your family can breathe easier.

### Your Furnace

- Change the filter monthly, or as directed by the manufacturer. Consider upgrading to a high-performance model that uses static electricity to trap dust, dander and pollen, which can help alleviate allergy and asthma symptoms. These filters don't have to be changed as often as regular filters.
- Mark on your calendar when it's time to change filters.
- Lowe's offers multi-packs so you will be prepared when it's time to change your filter.



### Vacuum Cleaners

- The filter in your vacuum is just as important for keeping dust and dirt out of the air, as well as the carpet. Consider purchasing a vacuum that uses a HEPA filter. HEPA (High Efficiency Particulate Air) filters help screen out microscopic particles that could possibly promote allergies and cause other health problems.
- You can buy HEPA filters for wet-dry vacuums, too.



### Humidifiers, Dehumidifiers and Air Purifiers

- An air purifier helps remove dust, pollen, smoke and odors—a perfect way to make a child's room healthier. They come in a variety of sizes, for large rooms and small. Keeping the filter clean helps the purifier work more effectively.

### Filters in the Kitchen

- The range hood above your stove will need some attention, too. Pop out the filter and wash with soap and water on a regular basis.

### Natural Air Filters

- Houseplants are yet another effective way to clean the air in your home. They naturally clean out air pollutants and put oxygen back into the air.
- Visit Lowe's any time of year for a great selection of plants for your home.



#### IMPORTANT

As for any home improvement project, follow the manufacturer's instructions and use proper safety precautions. Be sure to follow local building codes as well. If you're not comfortable doing a project, contact a professional for help.

### Carbon Monoxide

- You can see pollutants like dust and dander. But there's one air pollutant you can't see at all—and it's **highly dangerous**. Carbon monoxide is the leading cause of accidental poisoning deaths in North America. Installing a CO/Smoke detector can help keep your family safe from this dangerous pollutant.
1. When determining where to install your CO/Smoke detector, keep these tips in mind:
    - Install it near bedrooms to make sure everyone can hear the alarm, even when the doors are closed.
    - Keep the detectors away from the furnace or kitchen range.
  2. To install, you'll need: a pencil, drill, hammer, screwdriver and safety glasses. **All CO/Smoke detectors are different, so follow the manufacturer's instructions carefully.**
  3. Open the back of the unit and install the batteries.
  4. Hold the unit on the wall or ceiling to determine the best position.
  5. Mark the mounting holes with a pencil. Use the mounting plate as a template.
  6. Drill a hole through the marks and tap in two wall anchors.
  7. Secure the backplate with screws.
  8. Attach the unit to the backplate.
  9. It's good practice to test the alarm once a week. **If your carbon monoxide alarm does go off, leave your home immediately. Call 911 to report the problem and make sure a trained technician checks your appliances, like the water heater or furnace.**



**These tips on improving your indoor air quality are just the beginning. For more information, check out [Lowe's.com/HealthyHome](https://www.lowes.com/HealthyHome). And for other home improvement projects, visit [Lowe's.com/Videos](https://www.lowes.com/Videos).**

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