



Clean Your Cabin Air, Add a (cheap) Filter

Original Tip by Vector1

This is another 15 minute job that just might help your allergies a little, might keep the interior of your Tribute (or Escape) a little cleaner. It for sure won't break the bank.

What You'll Need

1- Fram CA4303 air filter or equivalent (NAPA 2136, Motorcraft FA-753, Purolator AF-70/A20070, Wix 42136, and AC A749C) Cost will be under \$5 as this is a very common filter. **Note:** Mazda and Ford both sell a filter specifically for this purpose. It is probably a better filter (containing carbon) but will cost you about \$30. The installation procedure is exactly the same.

How To Do It

1. Turn your Tribute or Escapes key on and then turn on the windshield wipers. Turn the key off when the wipers reach their full up position. This allows you to get to some screws a little easier.
2. Along the base of the windshield on the passenger side you'll see some plastic caps that cover phillips type screws. Remove the plastic caps using something like an eyeglass screwdriver or pointy object. **Be careful** you don't let these caps fall into the engine compartment or they're liable to vanish into the land of laundered socks, favorite pens and reading glasses. Replacements at your local Mazda or Ford dealer will cost you 75 cents apiece. (Mazda part # EC01-50-819A Cap, Cowl should you need replacements)
3. Remove the screws under the caps and pop the hood.

4. Along the front of the plastic cover you just removed the rear screws from you'll find half a dozen more screws.



Remove them by pressing *ëupí* from the bottom while turning with a phillips type screwdriver. You can use a flat bladed screwdriver to do the pushing. Once the screws are removed just pull up the keepers and stash everything in a safe spot.

5. Remove the cover. Under the cover you'll notice another good sized black box. This is the air box. Slide the top cover of the box forward and remove it. Now you're on target. This is where the filter will go.



6. Insert the filter with the *ëlargeí* side facing down. It will be a nice snug perfect fit. With the filter in place slide the cover back on, install all other parts in the reverse of the way you took them apart.

7. You might want to make a note someplace in your maintenance records to check the filter in a year and see if it needs replacing. In some parts of the country these things collect all kinds of pollen, seeds and other things that float through the air. Off roaders will probably collect a lot of dirt. Many of us will be able to use the same filter for years.

Easy? Right! Cheers, Gadget