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Thread: Filter Cleaning DIY: A Stratmosphere PSA!

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Thread Tools Display

08-26-2011 03:10 PM

#1

StratJohn

Stage 2 Banner Advertiser
 Four Rings
 Join Date: Feb 09 2010
 AZ Member #: 54710
 Location: Rochester NY

[My Photo Gallery](#): 0
[My Classifieds](#): 0 ★★★★★

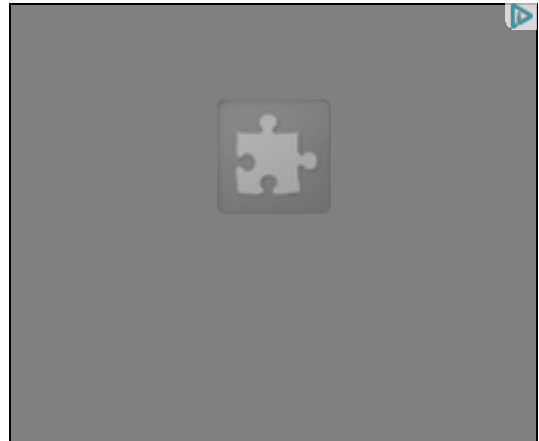
Filter Cleaning DIY: A Stratmosphere PSA!

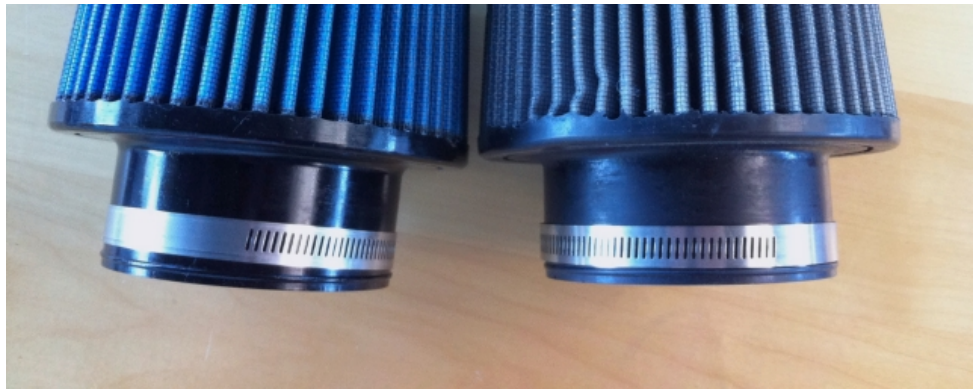
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So, chances are if you've purchased a [Stratmosphere Intake](#) for your car, you've been busying loving the sound of the supercharger, and driving your car all over. Don't forget- filters need love too! It's tough to use a mileage number to determine when to clean it, but it's simple to just pop the hood and take a peak and see how things are looking. Many people choose to [purchase a new filter to run while they clean the old one](#), thus having no downtime and a backup filter!

A lot of people ask me how often, and how, to clean their filters. Here's how!

Here is a reference- This is a brand new one on the left.





So if you've got a little time, clean that filter!

Hit up your local auto parts store. Grab a filter cleaning kit.



Maybe some rags too while you're there. I love the blue ones.





Step one, pull it out. The filter! It's probably filthy. Here's our dirty one, on the right, next to a brand new one:



Back home, open the kit up. You should have a cleaner and some oil.

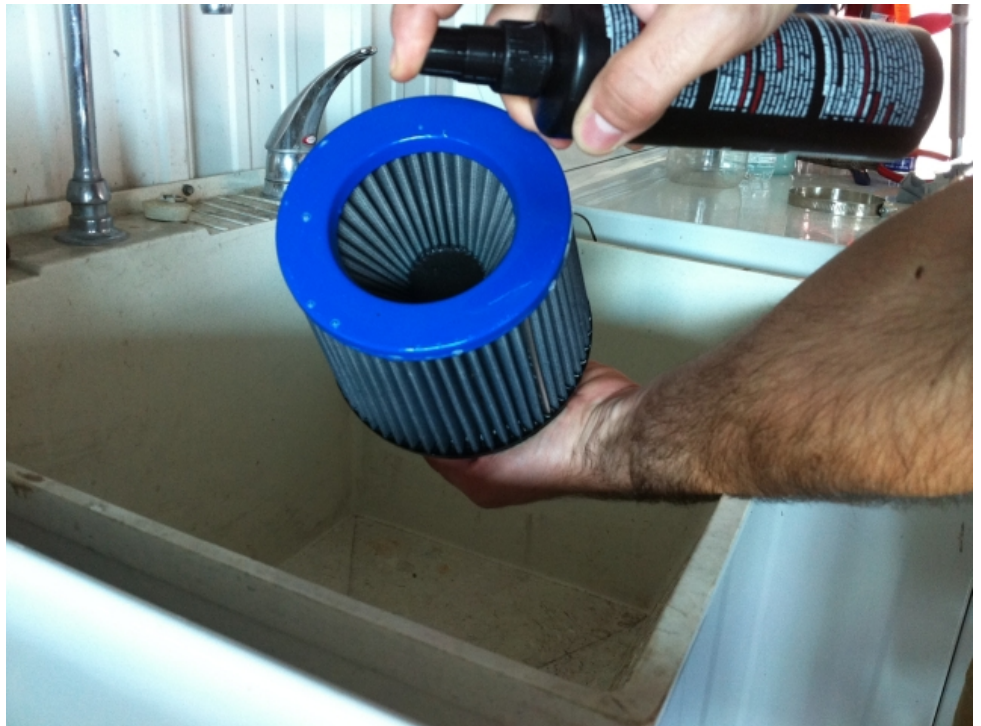


Over a sink, spray the cleaner on the OUTSIDE of the filter.





Don't forget the top.



Here it is, all cleaned up.



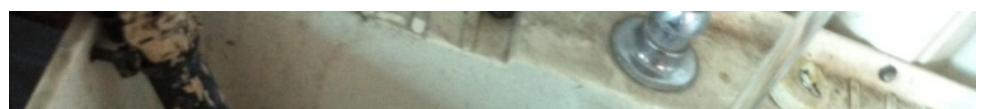


Now let that soak for a few, but don't let it dry out.

Back at the sink, go ahead and flush water from the **INSIDE** to the **OUTSIDE**.
You want to rinse dirt and debris away from the inside of the filter.



Again, don't forget the top cone of the filter. This pic will make sense once you rinse it.





Got a compressor? From the **INSIDE**, blow it out a little.



No compressor? That's ok. Go park it in the sun for a bit to dry.





Now after say, 20 minutes or so, it's time to oil it. Now, a lot of people ask about how to oil it, and we always say "lightly"..
The definition of this, is holding an aerosol can of the spray oil about 16" away from the filter, and waving back and forth no more than twice.
Like applying light spray coats of paint. The farther away, the finer it is. In the photo I am a little close, just to show the can/filter at the same time.
16" away!



After a bit of that, pop it in the sun again to dry some more. No compressor this time.



Here it is! After oiling, it'll have a light tinge of color. Pretty tough to avoid with any cleaning kit, they color the oil so you can see where it's been sprayed.



It's that easy!

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08-26-2011 03:15 PM

#2

zerinA4 

Veteran Member
Four Rings
Join Date: Apr 19 2005
AZ Member #: 6156
Location: Houston, TX

My Photo Gallery: 0
My Classifieds: 0 ★★★★★

Sweet, thanks John!

Zerin Dube

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2010 Brilliant Red Audi S4 [6MT/Sport Diff/B&O/Nav/19s/APR 93 Tuned/Stratmosphere Hyperflow/Milltek Non-Res Exhaust & DP

2008 Imola Yellow Audi TT 3.2Q 6MT S-Line - GONE

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08-26-2011 03:24 PM

#3

NunyaBiz 

Active Member
Two Rings



Join Date: Nov 18 2009
AZ Member #: 50919
My Garage: Spiders big enough to make me walk the other way =/
Location: Philly

My Photo Gallery: 0
My Classifieds: 0 ★★★★★

I cleaned mine about a month ago, and found an untold number of dead bug carcasses lodged in between the pleats. Definitely a good reminder. Even though I clean under the hood every time I was the car, it's quite easy to look past that filter element.

2011 S4 Ice Silver | 6-speed | Sport-diff | B&O | Nav | 19" peelers
Weathertech mats - Llumar 20% tint - Strat intake - APR Stage 2 V2 - Eurocode Alu Kruez - Hawk Pads - Oil dipstick -
APR Coolant Separator - STaSiS Challenge exhaust

KW V1's in the garage 

2004 S4 - gone
2001 S4 - gone
2001 A4 1.8T - gone
1995 VW Jetta 2.0

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08-26-2011 07:49 PM

#4

Kandiru 

Senior Member
Three Rings

Audi Hungaria



Join Date: Mar 28 2010
AZ Member #: 50770

 Originally Posted by **NunyaBiz** 

I cleaned mine about a month ago, and found an untold number of dead bug carcasses lodged in between the pleats. Definitely a good reminder. Even though I clean under the hood every time I was the car, it's quite easy to look past that filter element.

That's what you get for removing the fine mesh that is sitting at the OEM air intake's bow side, just being silly here:)

AZ Member #: 56773
Location: Isolation, OH

[My Photo Gallery](#): 0

[My Classifieds](#): 0 ★★★★★

being silly here :)

StratJohn U a good man! I wish i put a reminder on my Droid X's calendar for every routine item like this.

2012 S4 6MT Monsoon/Silver-Alc./Diff+B&O+airbags, Mods:R8 V10 St.Wheel, JHM Shifter, Summer: S5 Double Spokes 8T0601025H - Dunlop 245/35R19 (ET32), Winter: Hollow Spokes 8K00714994EE - Dunlop 255/35R19 with BFI-5mm-Fr+10mm-Rear & RAD 35mm bolts/locks, Customcargrills upper/lower/L-fog radiators protection, Oil Dipstick, RS4 pedals x4 & Autovation Heel Guard, Seat Bins, Trunk Triangle, Laminx fronts+fogs+edges+bumper, Windesa Sonniboy 8K Curtains

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08-26-2011 10:11 PM

#5

NunyaBiz ◊

Active Member
Two Rings



Join Date: Nov 18 2009
AZ Member #: 50919
My Garage: Spiders big enough to make me walk the other way =/
Location: Philly

[My Photo Gallery](#): 0

[My Classifieds](#): 0 ★★★★★

Originally Posted by [Kandiru](#)

That's what you get for removing the fine mesh that is sitting at the OEM air intake's bow side, just being silly here:)

StratJohn U a good man! I wish i put a reminder on my Droid X's calendar for every routine item like this.

Actually, that darn mesh is still there. I was kinda scratching my head trying to figure out where all the bugs came from 🤔

2011 S4 Ice Silver | 6-speed | Sport-diff | B&O | Nav | 19" peelers
[Weathertech mats - Llumar 20% tint - Strat intake - APR Stage 2 V2 - Eurocode Alu Kruez - Hawk Pads - Oil dipstick -](#)
[APR Coolant Separator - STaSiS Challenge exhaust](#)

[KW V1's in the garage](#) 🗝️

2004 S4 - gone
2001 S4 - gone
2001 A4 1.8T - gone
1995 VW Jetta 2.0

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08-27-2011 07:46 AM

#6

StratJohn ◊

Stage 2 Banner Advertiser
Four Rings
Join Date: Feb 09 2010
AZ Member #: 54710
Location: Rochester NY

[My Photo Gallery](#): 0

[My Classifieds](#): 0 ★★★★★

Originally Posted by [NunyaBiz](#)

Actually, that darn mesh is still there. I was kinda scratching my head trying to figure out where all the bugs came from 🤔

Last install I did, I found a dead bird!

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NunyaBiz ◊Active Member
Two RingsJoin Date: Nov 18 2009
AZ Member #: 50919
My Garage: Spiders big enough
to make me walk the other way =/
Location: Philly**My Photo Gallery:** 0**My Classifieds:** 0 ★★★★★Originally Posted by **StratJohn** ◊*Last install I did, I found a dead bird!*

Lol...now that took the damn cake right there. I challenge anyone to find better "debris" in their filter then a dead bird.

2011 S4 Ice Silver | 6-speed | Sport-diff | B&O | Nav | 19" peelers
[Weathertech mats - Llumar 20% tint - Strat intake - APR Stage 2 V2 - Eurocode Alu Kruez - Hawk Pads - Oil dipstick - APR Coolant Separator - STaSiS Challenge exhaust](#)**KW V1's in the garage** 🗝️2004 S4 - gone
2001 S4 - gone
2001 A4 1.8T - gone
1995 VW Jetta 2.0

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jscaf ◊Active Member
Two RingsJoin Date: Mar 20 2010
AZ Member #: 56387
My Garage: 2010 B8 S4 red
with red inter, 77 Trans Am
(original owner); 2005 Subaru
Impreza RS
Location: MD**My Photo Gallery:** 0**My Classifieds:** 0 ★★★★★

Does the stratmosphere intake result in dirt/grime build up in the intakes. I am considering getting this or the APR air intake but was worried that these result in more intake dirt. My car is a daily driver in DC area...

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StratJohn ◊Stage 2 Banner Advertiser
Four RingsJoin Date: Feb 09 2010
AZ Member #: 54710
Location: Rochester NY**My Photo Gallery:** 0**My Classifieds:** 0 ★★★★★Originally Posted by **jscaf** ◊*Does the stratmosphere intake result in dirt/grime build up in the intakes. I am considering getting this or the APR air intake but was worried that these result in more intake dirt. My car is a daily driver in DC area...*

DC? You'll be fine. I think any intake will have the same filter cleaning life as another in identical conditions. Ours is easier and quicker to clean in that case. 🙌

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