



Filters Service Bulletin May 2012

Filters are a common component to electronic systems that require periodic maintenance to keep doing the job as designed. The job of the filter is to allow cooling air to flow through the equipment without permitting dirt, dust and debris inside that equipment. Any electronic equipment uses electrical power to perform its job. The electricity by its very nature generates heat any time power is applied. Heat is the enemy of electronic components, contributing directly to the aging of the equipment.

Filters must be cleaned or replaced on a monthly basis minimum to prevent clogging and restricting the cooling air from reaching the heated components. Dirty environments would require more frequent filter maintenance. Reusable filters should be removed and cleaned by flushing with clear water and drying thoroughly before reinstallation. Another approach is to have a second set of filters, allowing immediate filter replacement, cleaning dirty filters and setting them aside to dry until the next cleaning cycle. Most video recording equipment (DVR, NVR) will have at least one filter per machine. Some computers have filters, but most do not. Cleaning ventilation holes or louvers is the equivalent of cleaning the filter. A vacuum cleaner is good for this chore, but use care not damage connections in the process. Electrical safety procedures should also be considered before starting the cleaning. If in doubt, shut down the equipment and remove the power cable first.

SWC recommends opening and cleaning dust and debris from the internal components of any computer annually. Dust collected over time keeps the flowing air from removing heat and may potentially create a fire hazard inside the equipment. Make notes of connections prior to disconnecting cables, remove power and use anti-static practices any time you open and work inside electronic equipment.

Prior bulletins on various subjects may be reviewed at <http://www.swcdec.com/Bulletins.htm>

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