

# Internal Weather Filter Q & A



## The 5 most frequently asked questions about Air Vent's internal weather filter



### 1. Why is the internal weather filter necessary?

Air Vent introduced the internal weather filter technology into attic ventilation products in 1981 when it added it to its metal ridge vents. Today, the internal weather filter is used inside Air Vent metal ridge vents, shingle-over ridge vents, The Edge Vent roof-top intake vent and a variety of roof louvers.<sup>1</sup> And many other attic ventilation manufacturers also offer a similar type filter. Here's why: It provides an additional layer of protection against wind-driven rain, snow, dust, debris, pollen and insects that is not present with vents that do not have it.

The internal weather filter helps to block multi-directional wind-blown snow and rain before it has an opportunity to enter the attic. It absorbs fine drifting snow or mist from rain which then evaporates in the filter.

Through Air Vent Customer Service phone calls and audience testimonials during our educational *Ask the Expert*<sup>™</sup> seminars we hear first-hand examples of non-filtered ridge vents allowing weather infiltration into the attic. When the roofing contractor replaces those vents with Air Vent's ShingleVent® II or Peak Performer<sup>™</sup> II – two vents that feature the internal weather filter – the weather infiltration ends. It's Air Vent's strong recommendation in northern climates to use ridge vents that have an internal weather filter.

But it's not just a northern climate feature. The internal weather filter also helps keep debris, pollen and insects out of the attic.

### 2. Will the internal weather filter clog?

Some roofing professionals fear an internal weather filter will become clogged over time. Just look at an HVAC filter after a few months, for example. And if it's clogged, will it then affect the vent's airflow performance? Air Vent's internal weather filter is NOT like an HVAC filter. It's not treated with any chemicals or oils designed to catch and keep debris and particles. It's not tightly woven. It is intentionally loosely woven. Think of an eyelash. It helps deflect dirt and debris away from your eye but it doesn't get clogged during the process.

Assisting the internal weather filter is the **external baffle** feature on Air Vent ridge vents. The amount of snow, debris, wind driven rain, etc., that reaches the internal weather filter is significantly limited because of the external baffle. It's the vent's first and primary line of defense. Wind and weather elements are deflected up and over the vent – away from the internal weather filter. There's a visually compelling video clip on [airvent.com](http://airvent.com) showing the external baffle in action.



*Fact: After 10 years of accelerated wind-blown dust exposure, Air Vent's ShingleVent II ridge vent (which features an internal weather filter and an external baffle) collected 3.3 grams of dust for a 2-foot section. It was the lowest*

<sup>1</sup> For a complete list of the Air Vent products that feature the internal weather filter please visit [www.airvent.com](http://www.airvent.com) or call Customer Service @ 1-800-AIR-VENT.

amount of any of the ridge vents tested. Furthermore, the dust collected only resulted in a **5% reduction in airflow performance**. That's 10% at the 20-year mark. That's 15% at 30 years. It's more realistic; however, that the entire roof will be replaced by the time 30 years comes around. The internal weather filter is designed to stay inside the vent the entire life of the vent. Visit [airvent.com](http://airvent.com) to view a video clip of the dust infiltration test.



### 3. Will airborne dust from within the attic clog the internal weather filter?

The velocity of the air flowing inside the attic is rarely – if ever – strong enough to lift particles of debris and dust to the height of the roof peak through the vent.

### 4. If the attic is re-insulated with blown-in insulation will that clog the internal weather filter?

If the insulation contractor is careless during installation it is possible that the insulation could clog the filter. Installing a temporary “curtain” (for example, plastic sheeting) horizontally near the peak before blown-in insulation is applied could help prevent this.

### 5. If a whole-house fan is being used in the house will that clog the internal weather filter over time?

When a whole-house fan is operating it uses all available vents in the attic – both the intake vents and the exhaust vents – as “exhaust” outlets to remove the air it has pulled into the attic through the living space. It is highly uncommon that the air is dust-laden and debris-filled as it rises into the attic. Furthermore, reports from the field since 1981 show this is a non-issue.