

2014-2016 BMW X5 | Easy | 20-40 minutes

TOOLS

Trim tool or flat-blade screwdriver
Nitrile gloves Shop vacuum or damp cloth

PARTS

Cabin air filter set (left and right elements, F15)

STEPS

- 1 Locate the cowl filter housings - Open the hood and look at the cowl area along the base of the windshield - the F15 X5 hides its two cabin filters under plastic covers there, one on each side. You will service both sides in this job.**
- 2 Remove the weather strip - Pull the long rubber weather strip off the rear edge of the engine bay by hand. It sits over the cowl covers and must be removed first.**
- 3 Release the cowl covers - Turn the twist-lock fasteners on each cowl cover a quarter turn and lift the covers off to reveal the filter elements. Ease them gently - heat-cycled plastic tabs snap if muscled.**
- 4 Remove the old filters and clean the trays - Lift both old filter elements out and check the airflow arrows printed on their frames. Scoop out leaves and wipe the grit from the empty trays before the new filters go anywhere near them.**
- 5 Install the new filters arrows-down - Set the new filters into the trays with the airflow arrows pointing DOWN toward the cabin, exactly as the old ones sat. Make sure each filter lies flat with its edges fully sealed in the tray.**
- 6 Refit the covers and weather strip - Refit both cowl covers and lock every twist-lock fastener, then press the rubber weather strip back along the whole cowl edge. Loose covers buzz at highway speed and admit water.**
- 7 Test the HVAC system - Start the X5 and cycle the HVAC through several fan speeds. Airflow should feel strong and even, and the stale or musty odor should be gone.**