2003-2018 BMW Z4 - Cabin Air Filter Replacement

2003-2018 BMW Z4 | Easy | 15-30 minutes (E85 glove box removal takes longer the first time) | $28 DIY

TOOLS

Phillips screwdriver (E85 glove box screws; E89 panel screws) Small vacuum or brush (for leaf debris in the housing) Flashlight

PARTS

Cabin air filter for 2003-2018 BMW Z4; verify arrows, size, and VIN/trim fitment $28.00

STEPS

1. **Identify your generation - the filter moved - The Z4 spans two generations: the E85** (2003-2008 soft-top roadster) hides the filter behind the glove box; the E89 (2009-2016 retractable hardtop) puts it under the dash in the passenger footwell. Follow your generation's steps.
2. **E85 (2003-2008): remove the glove box - Empty the glove box, remove its mounting screws** and bottom panel, and lift the assembly out of the dash - fiddly the first time. The filter housing sits directly behind where the box was.
3. **E89 (2009-2016): get into the passenger footwell - Slide the passenger seat all the way** back and kneel at the open passenger door, looking up under the dash. Remove the three screws holding the trim panel and pull the panel downward - it's a tight space. The cabin filter housing sits beh...
4. **Open the housing and study the old filter - Release the housing cover and study the old** filter before it comes fully out. Note the airflow arrow on its frame. E89 cars commonly run an activated-carbon filter - darker than paper - so replace like with like for odor control. Photo...
5. **Pull the old filter out - Slide or lower the old filter out, keeping it level so leaves** and dust don't spill - Z4 intakes collect a surprising amount of leaf litter. Vacuum the empty housing; on the E85, debris tends to dump as the old filter comes out.
6. **Fit the new filter arrow-correct - Install the new filter with its airflow arrow pointing** the same direction as the old one - on both generations the air flows downward through the filter toward the blower. Make sure the filter sits flat and fully seated in the housing wi...
7. **Reassemble your generation's trim and test - E85: refit the glove box, bottom panel, and** screws, and check the box opens smoothly. E89: push the trim panel up and reinstall its three screws. Run the blower through every speed. Change yearly; a musty A/C smell means it's overdue.

TORQUE

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