2004-2011 Mazda RX-8 - Engine Air Filter

2004-2011 Mazda RX-8 | Easy | 20-30 minutes | $35 DIY

TOOLS

10 mm and 12 mm sockets with ratchet Clean damp cloth or shop vacuum Small flathead screwdriver (for freeing wiring clips)

PARTS

Engine air filter for 2004-2011 Mazda RX-8; verify engine, housing shape, and VIN fitment $35.00

STEPS

1. **Remove the engine cover and strut brace - Engine stone cold: pull the engine cover off** its mounts, then remove the strut brace - four 12-mm nuts, two on each side. Airbox hides under the brace. Series I (2004-2008) and Series II (2009-2011) cars share the same airbox.
2. **Disconnect the three breather pipes - Pull off the three breather pipes where they plug** into the airbox. Plastic lugs get brittle with heat and age, so twist gently and pull straight - yanking sideways snaps them off, and a broken lug means hunting a junkyard airbox.
3. **Loosen the throttle-body clip, unplug both sensors - Loosen - don’t remove - the 10-mm** bolt in the jubilee clip at throttle body. Unplug the MAF plug and the green VFAD (variable fresh air duct) plug, then free their wiring from clips so nothing holds the airbox back.
4. **Lift the complete airbox out of the bay - Slide the airbox neck off throttle body and** lift the box out of the bay. It comes free once three breather pipes, both sensor plugs, and jubilee clip are released - if it hangs up, stop and find what’s attached.
5. **Open the box’s two base clips, swap the filter - With the box on a bench, flip open the** two clips at its base to separate the halves, and lift out the old filter. Note the orientation - the filter only seals properly one way round.
6. **Clean the box halves and seat the new filter - Wipe out both box halves and inspect for** cracks - a cracked airbox whistles and can lean out a rotary. Drop the new filter into the lower half so it sits flat on the sealing lip all the way round.
7. **Reassemble, reconnect everything and verify - Press halves together and snap the two base** clips. Slide neck over throttle body, snug the jubilee clip, reconnect MAF and VFAD plugs, push three breather pipes home, then refit strut brace and engine cover. Start up: smooth idle, no whist...

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