2005-2015 Nissan Xterra - Engine Air Filter

2005-2015 Nissan Xterra | Easy | 5-10 minutes | $35 DIY

TOOLS

Shop vacuum or damp rag Flat screwdriver (only if a clip is stiff)

PARTS

Engine air filter for 2005-2015 Nissan Xterra; verify engine, housing shape, and VIN fitment Fram CA7440 $35.00

STEPS

1. **Park and locate the airbox - Park on level ground, shut off the 4.0L VQ40DE V6, and set** the parking brake. Pop the hood and find the black plastic airbox on the passenger side - trace the intake duct from the throttle body back to it.
2. **Note the MAF sensor just behind the box - The mass airflow sensor sits on the intake tube** right behind the airbox - don’t unplug it, just avoid pulling the tube. If the truck idles rough or stalls afterward, a disturbed MAF plug is the first thing to check.
3. **Unhook the side clips on the airbox - Flip the metal clips on the side of the airbox** outward with your fingers - no tools needed. The lid registers on the lower box with tabs, so lift it straight up once the clips are free rather than dragging sideways.
4. **Lift out the old panel filter - Lift the old filter out and note which side faced up and** how it sat. Hold it to the light - dark, dust-packed pleats mean the change is overdue. Compare it with the new filter to confirm the match.
5. **Clean the lower airbox tray - Vacuum or wipe leaves, sand, and grit from the bottom half** of the box. Don’t push debris toward the duct leading to the engine, and don’t poke anything into the intake tube while the filter is out.
6. **Drop in the new filter so it sits flush - Set the new filter into the tray the same way** the old one sat, sealing frame flat in the groove. Don’t bend or force the media - a tilted filter keeps the lid from closing and lets unfiltered air past.
7. **Rehook the clips and check your work - Seat the lid, align it, and flip every clip until** it snaps shut. Run a finger around the seam - no gaps allowed. Close the hood and start the engine; a rough idle points to the disturbed MAF plug.

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