

Pollen Filter Replacement in a Volkswagen Golf MK5

TOOLS REQUIRED



- T20 Torx Screwdriver
- Flathead Screwdriver

There are only two tools required to change the Pollen Filter in a VW Golf MK5. You will need to have a Torx Screwdriver of some sort (T20 size) and a standard flathead screwdriver.

Alternatively, you can use a screwdriver which has interchangeable tips, this gives you the benefit of more flexible options in terms of quickly changing tips and is small and portable enough to use. I have both a precision kit (mainly what I use for computer repair) and the actual tools. I just used my precision kit because I had it on hand.

Another option, if you have no flathead or torx screwdrivers, you could get away with using something like a nail file or scissors, but the points on the torx are fine so it would take a large amount of time. It is easier going to buy one, they're cheap enough (maybe £5)

In this picture, I used my precision screwdriver kit that I purchased from machine mart

{£5.99 – and it contained all the parts I needed – see the kit I used here}

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ITEMS REQUIRED



- Pollen Filter

You can see in this picture the filter that fit my car was from a company called Alco. The part number from Alco was MS-6274, my car is a VW Golf GT TDI MK5 (140HP), although you will probably find VW have the same filter for many models. One of the perks with VW, they tend to use similar parts across many models of car. I purchased my Pollen Filter from a local car store; they're not expensive and generally only need replacement every 50,000 miles.

Pollen Filter replacement varies depending on where you drive, if you live in a place with clean air and do frequent long drives it can last longer. If you live in an area where you do frequent high miles or city driving, it probably needs replacement sooner

If you are in any doubt and don't want to spend the money you can easily check it out yourself to see how dirty it is and decide from there. If you don't want to pop off the covers, then refer to the manufacturer's guidelines on servicing to get information for your vehicle for when the pollen filter

UPDATED COMMENTS:

I looked this up to save time, for reference the standard servicing for replacement of a pollen filter with Volkswagen is every 2 years (or every 20,000 miles) whichever comes first.

You can either purchase your filter directly from Volkswagen themselves or an aftermarket filter from a local car store. I purchased mine from a car store; they're usually around £8-10 in price

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WHY SHOULD YOU CHANGE YOUR POLLEN FILTER?

Basically, it's best to change your pollen filter because it filters all the rubbish coming into your car. Eventually it will lead to smells, and a clean pollen filter helps people with breathing problems like Asthma. I have taken a copy of information at the following link, because I couldn't be bothered to explain it fully. All credit to the below information goes to the author who posted on the following link

<http://blogs.cars.com/kickingtires/2013/05/whats-a-cabin-air-filter-and-when-should-you-replace-it.html>

"The cabin air filter, a feature found on most late-model vehicles, cleans the air that comes into the interior through the heating, ventilation and air conditioning system. It catches dust, pollen and other airborne material that can make riding in a car unpleasant, particularly if you have allergies or other respiratory problems.

Recommendations on when it should be replaced vary by manufacturer — some say every 12,000 or 15,000 miles, others longer — and how often can depend on how much you drive and where. Check the maintenance schedule in your owner's manual. If you drive in heavy traffic in an urban area that has poor air quality, you could need to replace the filter annually or even more often. However, that also could be true in a desert climate where there is a lot of dust.

Some signs that you need a new cabin air filter are reduced air flow through your HVAC system, such as when you crank up the fan too high and you get more noise than results. Another is persistent bad odours. Even if you don't have these warnings, you should have the filter checked at least once a year, and you may be able to do that yourself.

Many cabin air filters are located behind the glove box and are easily accessible by freeing the glove box from its fasteners (instructions should be in the owner's manual). Others are located under the dashboard and may not be easy to reach, or under the hood where fresh air enters the HVAC system. Some of these filters are expensive, as in \$50 or more at dealerships, so you could save money by buying a replacement at a parts store and doing it yourself.

If a dealership service department or repair shop recommends you get a new cabin air filter, ask to see the current one. Depending on how long the filter has been in service, you might be shocked at what you see: leaves, twigs, insects, soot and grime that literally cover the entire surface that comes in contact with incoming air. You'll know it's time for a new cabin air filter"

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PROCEDURE TO REPLACE THE POLLEN FILTER



Using your screwdriver with the T20 torx bit, loosen the 3 screws underneath the glove box holding the filter housing and foam cover in place. You can see them circled above in the 2nd picture; they're spaced evenly apart, one nearest the centre column, one in the centre and one nearest the door next to the foot well light. Remove these screws

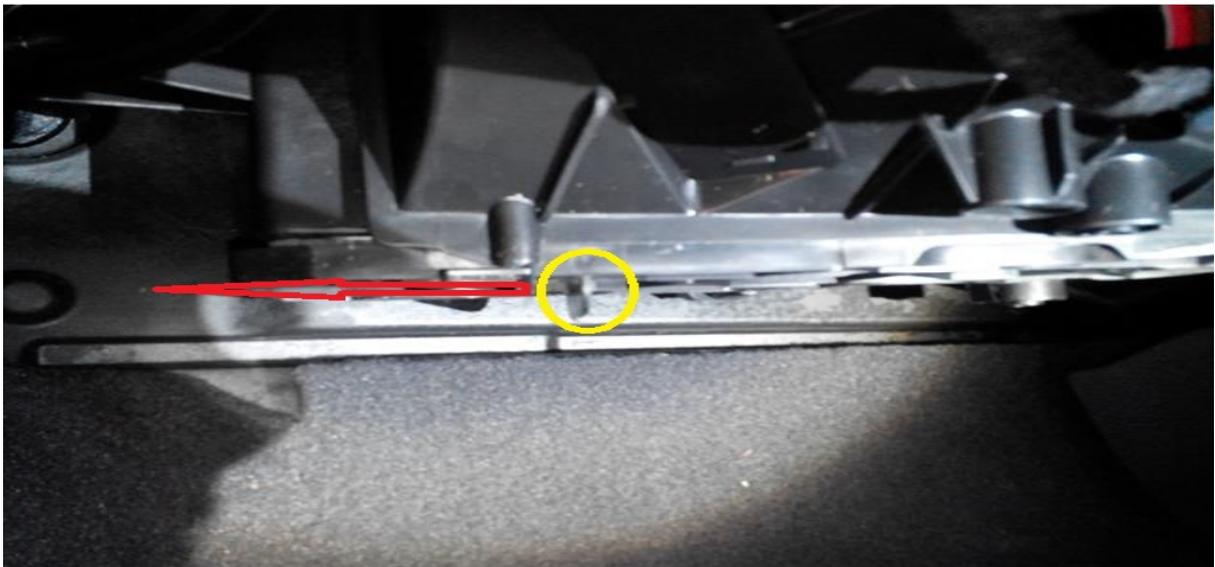


When you have removed the Torx screws, change your bit or changeover to the flat head screwdriver. You will need to look underneath the glove box; you will then see the following two plastic screws holding the foam in place. Remove these screws

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When you have removed the torx screws (I have circled their relevant positions above) and the flathead screws from the foam, you will need to remove the foam away from the covers. I found the best way to do this is by digging a finger just behind the light, there is a gap here. Once you have started moving the foam away it should come off easy if you have removed all 5 screws.

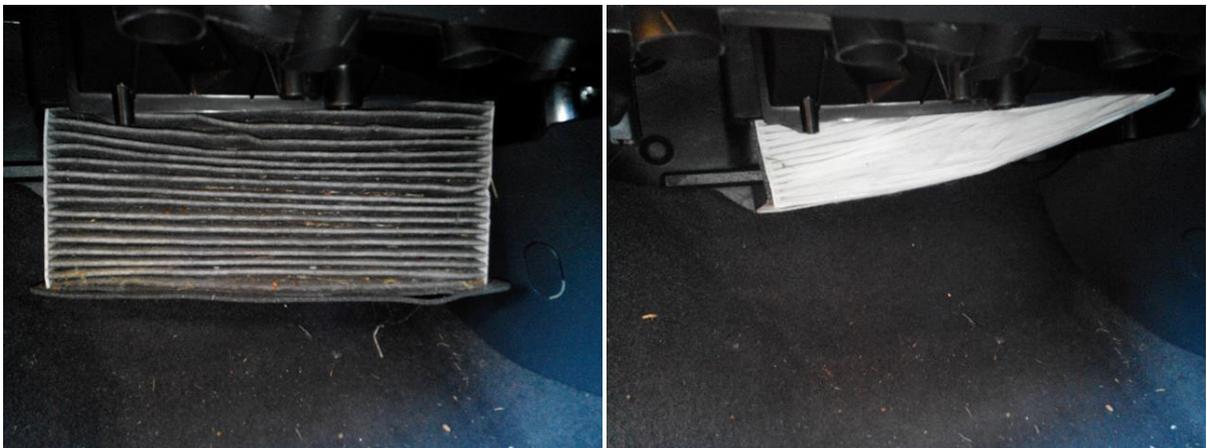


When you have removed the foam cover, look underneath the glove box, in the foot well you should be presented with something like this. To remove the pollen filter you need to loosen it from its housing. In order to do this, slide the latch (circled yellow) to the left, it will then unlock and fall down

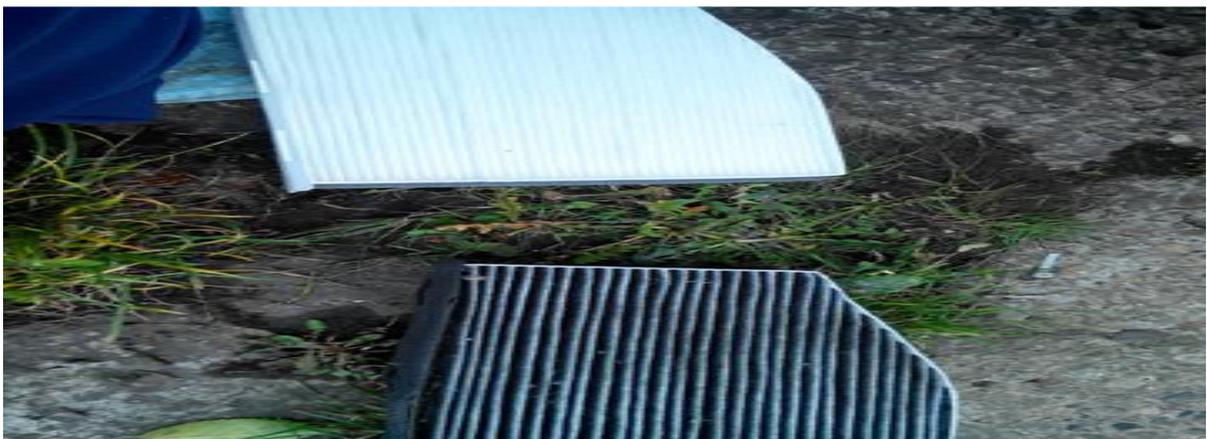
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When you have slid the cover off, it will fall down to the floor and the older filter should pull out quite easy enough. You will then be able to see the quality of the filter you are removing on your car after the latch has been released



After the old filter has dropped down when the cover was removed (picture above) all you have to do is reinstall the new filter, it should slot in easy enough, just reinstall in the same procedure the old one came out (for reference it reinstalls in the orientation in the picture below)



This is a direct comparison on my new filter and the old filter; you can see how dirty they get. So remember to replace these, as they help people who suffer from Asthma and I'd rather not think of the rubbish you breathe in with a dirty filter

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This picture is mainly for reference, this is the latches that the cover for the pollen filters housing slots into when the filter has been reinstalled. The latch will only fit one way, so it should be easy enough to work out. As reinstallation is just simply a case of swapping old for new filters and securing the latch again



When you have reinstalled the new filter, secure the latch by pushing it the right, it will lock in place. You then need to place the foam over the air holes, it's best to "tuck" it under the glove box to get it into place. When you have done this, replace all 5 screws and you are done with the filter replacement



This isn't anything specific; it's just a reference to the mileage that I changed my filter on my car for my own purposes. It may help you decide when to change your filter, it may not. I am using this picture as a reference to build up a service history so I don't forget