

## What is the Purpose of a Safety Filter?



Safety filter... Secondary element... Inner filter... Spare filter? These filters go by many names...

### At Donaldson we prefer to call it a "safety" filter

A safety filter backs up the primary (main) filter and protects the engine while the primary filter is out of the housing during service. The engine should never be run with only a safety filter in place.

The safety is NOT a spare filter! Its purpose is to protect the engine if something goes wrong with the primary (main) filter. Until then, it quietly does its job.

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TRUCKING



MINING



CONSTRUCTION



Compared to a primary filter, the safety filter is more open for lower restriction and is less efficient. A safety element does not increase the overall operating efficiency of an air cleaner.



A safety filter is there to protect the engine against hidden damage to a primary filter – damage from cleaning, mis-installation, a “will-fit” that doesn’t quite fit, or the installation of the wrong size filter. A safety filter is not to be used as a “spare” filter.

More information on safety filters is available through  
the Filter Manufacturers Council at  
[www.filtercouncil.org/techdata/tsbs/99-2.pdf](http://www.filtercouncil.org/techdata/tsbs/99-2.pdf)

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