



LASER MACHINE MANUFACTURER  
MICROSTEP DISTRIBUTOR

## **Combined Filter Replacement – Smelling Fumes**

If the status of the filter unit says that it is operating correctly (not blocked) but you can smell fumes around the laser machine which it is operating, it is very likely that the combined filter needs replacing.

In the majority of filter units supplied by us, there is a combined filter (sometimes called a GAS / carbon filter) which contains carbon. Carbon works by absorbing the smells from the air which flows through the filter.

Unfortunately, because the carbon does not “block” as such (there is no sensor in the unit to indicate when the carbon has been used up), instead the indicator of the carbon needing replacing is when the unit is running correctly yet you begin smelling traces of the fumes in the room.

**Before ordering a replacement filter**, we would suggest giving the extraction system a visual check over to make sure the hoses are still securely connected and that the pipes/hoses are not damaged, leaking or bent, as this may also have an impact on the extraction process.

In summary, the checks are;

- Make sure the extraction system is working correctly, drawing the air away from the machine at a rate that is fast enough to clear the fumes from the laser in a timely manner. Make sure the flow rate is high enough for the materials you are working with. Make sure there are no kinks or obstructions in the hoses and ducting between the laser machine and filtration system / extraction fan. Make sure all of the hoses are connected correctly and securely.
- Make sure there are no debris in the white catch tray in the machine (i.e. below the machine work bed/area).
- Make sure there are no debris underneath the work tray (pull the tray out and check the inside of the machine is clear).
- With the tray pulled out, use a stiff brush to gently tap/brush the holes in the tray to make sure that they are clear and unblocked.
- Make sure the machine is not pushed fully back against the wall so that the air can circulate correctly around the machine and into the relevant vents.