

If you're serious about your **70 Series Toyota** ute, especially around the tough conditions of regional NSW farms and dusty unsealed roads, you've likely noticed how fast those factory air filters clog up. It's a common gripe amongst owners and 4x4 enthusiasts alike. Getting your air intake system right isn't just about keeping the engine happy — it's critical for dust management, engine breathing, preventing water ingress, and ensuring safe towing.



Over the years tuning and fitting gear to countless 70 Series utes, especially pre and post 2023 models, I've learned it pays to understand what's going on under the bonnet instead of throwing parts at the problem. Today, I'll break down why these air filters clog, what matters for different engine and year setups, and why brands like Safari and ARMAX's Safari snorkel range are often the go-to choice — all while cutting through the fluff.

The Problem: Fine Dust and the Factory Air Intake Location

The biggest culprit behind those clogged air filters is the very nature of where Toyota's factory air intake sits on the 70 Series. Typically, the factory air intake is positioned relatively low and around the front quarter of the engine bay. On sealed roads, this isn't an issue, but on unsealed, dusty farm tracks or during harvest season, this location is exposed to constant fine dust.

Fine dust engine intake contamination isn't just about visible dirt; it's the tiny, micron-sized particles that penetrate the air intake, rapidly clogging up the factory paper filter element. This reduces airflow, chokes the engine's breathing, and ultimately hurts fuel economy and power — along with increasing engine wear from abrasive particles sneaking past filters that are over-saturated or damaged.

This problem isn't new, but it's amplified in modern 70 Series models due to some design tweaks and emission system changes, especially after the 2023 facelift. Pre-2023 and post-2023 diesel variants have slightly different intake setups, making accurate fitment of aftermarket upgrades critical.

Why Dust Accumulates Quickly on Unsealed Roads

- **Proximity to dust source:** The factory intake location is low and forward, right where dust clouds kicked up by the vehicle's own tires concentrate.

- **Harvest dust ute maintenance challenges:** Seasonal dust from combines and grain trucks creates an environment with ultra-fine particles that don't easily settle.
- **Lack of pre-filtering:** The stock setup uses a standard paper filter with no pre-filtering or cyclone effect to separate heavy dust or debris first.

As a result, those filters pack up quickly, mean you're stopping often to check or replace them — and if you push through, risk engine damage.

How to Manage Dust: Snorkels and Quality Air Filtration

One of the most effective upgrades for managing intake dust issues is fitting a snorkel. Brands like **Safari** have been pioneers in quality snorkel kits designed specifically for 70 Series utes. ARMAX, as part of the Safari range, offers robust options that combine dust management with water ingress prevention.

Benefits of a Safari Snorkel Kit

- **Elevated air intake:** Moves the intake point from near the headlight/nav lights area up the A-pillar, well above the dust plume kicked up behind the front wheels.
- **Prevention of water ingress:** Crucial when creek crossing, flood driving, or wet season conditions feature — reduces risk of hydrolock, a killer for diesel engines.
- **Improved engine breathing:** Provides a cooler, cleaner airflow which helps maintain performance and fuel efficiency.
- **Safe towing and blind spot reduction:** Many kits are designed not only with airflow in mind but also to reduce snorkel profile and improve driver visibility, a critical safety aspect on farms during towing operations.

Snorkel prices start from around **\$526** depending on the finish, materials, and vehicle year/engine variant, which is a worthwhile investment compared to repeated filter replacements and potential engine damage.

Fitment Accuracy Matters: Year and Engine Variants

Here's where I get picky — you **must** always know your ute's *year and engine type* before getting parts. The 2023 changeover in the 70 Series revamped a few components, and snorkel fitment is no exception.

Pre-2023 models usually have simpler crossover points and shorter snorkel needs, whereas **post-2023 70 Series**, especially with updated turbo and emission systems, require different mounting brackets or intake positioning to ensure a tidy, watertight fit.

Cutting corners and buying 'universal' snorkels or guessing fitment can lead to what I call '*shed-on-a-Saturday mistakes*' — messy wiring, cut [gdj79 snorkel fitment](#) looms, or poor sealant applications. This turns a smart upgrade into a headache when dust still gets in or water leaks happen.



Things to Check Before Buying or Installing

1. Identify your 70 Series model year and engine code.
2. Confirm the snorkel kit is designed specifically for your setup (Safari and ARMAX provide detailed fitment guides).
3. Look for full harness kits or accessories that maintain wiring integrity — no cutting or splicing into factory looms.
4. Consider if you haul trailers or stock — ask if the snorkel design impacts driver sight lines or towing safety.
5. Request professional installation if unsure — a clean fitment protects your investment.

Beyond Snorkels: Other Dust Management Tips

While snorkels are the headline upgrade, dust management is a whole-system approach.

- **Regular air filter checks and replacements:** Don't push filters past their limit. Farm dust is brutal.
- **Use quality, heavy-duty filter elements:** Consider aftermarket high-flow foam or oiled cotton types designed for dusty environments.
- **Sealing up engine bay gaps:** Prevent dust ingress through loose panels or ventilation where possible.
- **Engine breather relocation kits:** Some owners move breather hoses higher to avoid water and dust.
- **Keep your ute clean:** Remove debris from screen filters and snorkel heads regularly.

Conclusion: Don't Let Dust Kill Your 70 Series

Dusty unsealed roads and farm environments are part of daily life for 70 Series owners in regional Australia. But that fine dust engine intake nightmare doesn't have to be. Understanding the factory air intake location weaknesses, managing engine breathing with quality kits like **Safari snorkels** and **ARMAX's Safari range**, and ensuring accurate fitment by model year and engine will vastly improve reliability and save you grief in the long run.

Remember, when it comes to accessories: don't guess — always ask, "What year and what engine?" before buying, avoid messy cuts and wiring hacks, and invest in proven solutions tailored for your vehicle.

Upgrade Benefit Approx. Price (AUD) Fitment Notes Safari Snorkel Kit Elevated intake, dust and water protection, OEM-style fit From \$526 Select per model year & engine; pre/post-2023 differences Heavy-Duty Air Filter Element Improved dust filtration, longer life on farms \$80–\$150 OEM or aftermarket matched to engine Engine Bay Sealing Kits Reduce dust ingress via cabin or slight leaks \$50–\$100 General fitment; improves overall dust-proofing

Keep your 70 Series breathing clean and fresh, and it'll reward you with years of reliable hauling and dirt-crunching fun.