Pizza, pasta, calzone and stromboli ... Those are the delicious Italian foods that you'll find cooking in the kitchens of Parisi’s Primo Pizza & Pasta Restaurant, located in Barrington, Illinois. As those hand made crusts are being tossed in the air and baked in the ovens, you’ll also find large amounts of flour dust and oil mist circulating throughout the air, coating appliances, condenser coils and other costly equipment necessary to run a very busy kitchen as successfully as Primo does.

After cooling and ventilation systems have been installed, many mechanical contractors find themselves rigging a filtration solution to protect the costly equipment from this hostile environment. This particular condensing unit had just been replaced at Primo Pizza & Pasta Restaurant because of the huge amounts of contaminant that are continually circulated throughout the air, coating the coils and electrical components with an oily/flour mixture. The unit had already failed due to excessive heat and dirty coils. The condensing unit’s location on top of a Norlake KoldLocker walkin cooler, makes it hard to clean the coils regularly. Self rinsing coil cleaner is recommended by the manufacturer, but there is no place for the cleaner to run off, except down to the counters, and possibly on to the food preparation areas. Airflow obstructions and coated coils in this type of equipment can be a costly expense, requiring continuous cleaning to prevent equipment damage and to allow the system to run at peak efficiencies. James Wilson, of James Mechanical Company, located in Genoa, Illinois, was called in to replace the condensing unit.

The original filtration fix consisted of a 1” tacified nonwoven polyester pad, which had to be duct taped to the front of the fins. This pad had to be changed at least once a month. The blue pad shown above had just been replaced, and after only a day, it was coated and filthy. James Mechanical found a cost effective and long-term filtration solution for their customer with Permatron's patented PreVent® Equipment Protection Filters. The filters are washable, woven synthetic polypropylene media, which draws in and traps airborne particulates. The electrostatic media, enhanced by airflow needs no system modifications or electrical hookups. PreVent was made to the custom size of the protective fins and framed in black vinyl. The filter is affixed to the outer perimeter of the air intake by a velcro loop attachment sewn onto the vinyl binding. Hook velcro is attached to the condenser with adhesive backing. Magnetic stripping, with a stainless or galvanized steel frame, can also be used for attaching filter to fins. PreVent filters are easily removed and cleaned by spraying with a degreaser and rinsing with water or vacuumed in place by using a portable shopvac. The 3-dimensional media is UV protected and contains an inherent electrostatic charge that won’t diminish over time, so it can be used indoors or outdoors, providing years of equipment protection. PreVent® the damage before it’s too late!