

**STATE OF CONNECTICUT DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH
DRINKING WATER SECTION**

GUIDANCE DOCUMENT FOR REPLACING SEDIMENT FILTERS

Purpose:

This document provides public water systems with a procedural guideline to follow when replacing sediment filters.

Definition:

A sediment filter is a cartridge filter used to strain out sand, rust, silt, and other particulates from well water. A sediment filter normally does not remove chemical or bacteriological contaminants. The sediment filter is typically installed within a cartridge filter housing.

Replacement of filter:

1. The sediment filter should be changed on a regular basis, at a frequency depending on the raw water quality, or according to manufacturer's recommendations. Routine filter replacement will prevent the reduction of flow from the accumulation of sediments and to eliminate potential bacteria growth in the filter that may cause water quality problems.
2. Spare filters should be kept in their sanitary wrappings and stored in a sanitary environment to prevent the filters from contamination. Spare cartridge filters that are not equipped with sanitary wrappers or whose wrappers have been torn should be discarded.
3. Filters should be handled and installed in a clean and sanitary manner. When replacing the filters, care should be exercised to ensure the installer's hands do not come into direct contact with the filter surface. The installer should always thoroughly wash their hands and use sterile plastic gloves prior to performing the replacement procedure as an additional precaution to prevent the introduction of contaminants in the water. Also refer to the manufacturer's recommendations on ways to avoid contaminations.
4. The well should be turned off or the filter should be bypassed or isolated when performing these procedures.
5. The wrapping should be peeled back from one end of the filter and the filter inserted into the filter housing at which point the remaining portion of the wrapping should be removed without allowing the wrapping or bare hands to come into contact with the filter when replacing the housing.
6. After changing the cartridge filter, the filter housing should be chlorinated by adding about ¼ ounce (1/2 tablespoon) to ½ ounce (1 tablespoon) of liquid chlorine to disinfect any possible contaminants introduced during these procedures.
7. The entire water system should be disinfected following the completion of any work of sanitary significance.