

## What You Need To Know About

### Spa Filters



The Filter is the one of the most important components of your spa and it is essential that it is maintained properly and replaced at the recommended intervals.

We have the largest selection of replacement spa filters in Portugal with over 90 different part numbers to cover virtually every make and model, ever manufactured.



#### About Spa Filters:

Spa Filters are often described as being made of paper when in actual fact they are manufactured from a polyester fibre fabric, this is then pleated and made into a cylindrical shape by bonding both ends with a hard rubber compound.

The most common filters have a hole at either end, or a handle on the top with a male screw fitting on the bottom, although there are a variety of end finishes as shown in the "How to Measure Filters" section.

Some spas now also use a "Micron" filter, they are manufactured from a sintered Polypropylene material and are capable of removing much finer particles than the Polyester fibre type. These filters are not designed to be cleaned and should be replaced every 4-6 months.

#### Filter Maintenance Products:

**Regular Cleaning:** Use "[Instant Filter Cleaner](#)" to remove grease and oils.

**Deep Cleaning:** Use "[Immerse Filter Cleaner](#)" and soak overnight.

**Rinsing Filters:** Use a "[Water Wand](#)" to open the pleats and guarantee thorough cleaning.

#### **Preventative Maintenance Products:**

a.) Use "[Scum Absorber Sponges](#)", they remove oil and grease from the water before it gets to the filter.

b.) Use "[Pollen Bug-a-Boo](#)" fine mesh screens that stretch over a Spa Scoop to remove fine particles and smaller contaminants, a scoop alone can't get.

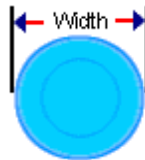
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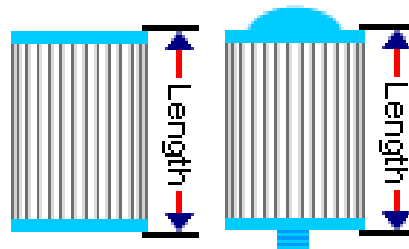
## How to Measure Your Spa Filters

Measuring your filter cartridge may not be as straight forward as it at first seems. The notes below should assist in identifying your filter correctly, please be aware that **measurements may vary by up to 10mm**. due to expansion or shrinkage of the cartridge over time and different manufacturers production.

**1.)** Measure the outside diameter (width) of the filter cartridge in millimetres



**2.)** Measure the length of the filter, include the thickness of the end caps but **DO NOT** include handles or screw threads



**3.)** Identify the end caps of the filter;  
*Is it Threaded, with a Handle, or an Open Hole at both ends?*

**4.)** If it is an Open Hole, measure the inner Diameter of the hole, **EXCLUDING** any taper



**Excluding Taper**



**5.)** If the filter has a Male Thread, identify which type it is;  
**Fine** (Regular MPT) or **Coarse** (SAE)



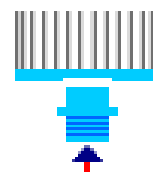
**The SAE Coarse Thread:**  
Is widely spaced with flat edges and is usually **38mm**.



**Regular MPT Threads:**  
Are Fine and tightly spaced, with relatively sharp edges, they are usually listed in one of two sizes; **38mm** or **51mm** MPT.  
**PLEASE NOTE:** 38mm thread has an outer diameter of 45mm  
51mm thread has an outer diameter of 59mm



**IMPORTANT NOTE:** Some Pleatco® Brand filters have a removable threaded fitting that is a push fit into the bottom of the filter.  
**PLEASE CHECK** the filter compartment to see if a fitting of this type has been left in.  
*Our filters are moulded in one piece and the threaded fitting comes out with the filter.*



**This is the push fit removable threaded fitting as used in some Pleatco Filters**

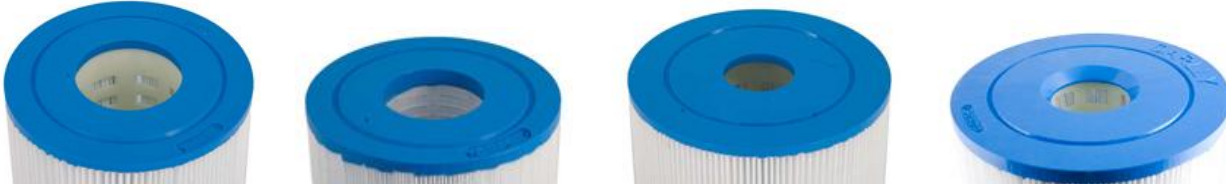


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## Spa Filter End Finishes

The majority of Hot Tub Spa Filters tend to have an open hole at both ends, most of which tend to be 54mm diameter, although 60mm and 76mm diameter holes are also fairly common. The images below show the "Open Hole" design:



The other configuration that is commonly found on Spa Filters is a handle, or closed top, with a screw thread on the bottom, "Handle" styles and the "Closed Top" are shown below:

### Closed Top



The most common "Screw Threads" on the bottom of the filter are shown below:

### Regular MPT (Fine) Threads

### SAE (Coarse) Threads



Some other, less common, bottom finishes are shown below:

### Male Slip Fitting

### Twist Lock

### Recessed Hole

### Slotted Hole



Some other, less common, top finishes are shown below:

### "Y" Stand Offs

### Castle Top

### Stepped Hole



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## Spa Filter Maintenance - 10 Top Tips

**The poor old Spa filter is probably the most abused and unappreciated part of most hot tub spas and yet is one of the most important.**

It is expected to clean your water of; algae, bacteria, hair, body oils, cosmetics, lotions, dead skin, insects, dissolved solids, etc. - It's a tough job, but something's got to do it!

By following these simple maintenance tips you can maximise filtration efficiency to maintain clear, clean, safe, water..... and prolong the life of your hot tub filter and pumps.

The spa should run on a low speed filter cycle mode for between three to six hours each and every day, this ensures adequate water circulation and turnover of the spa water.....even if your spa isn't being used every day.

This is usually controlled automatically by your spa's management system.

1. Add **Non-Chlorine Shock** treatment every week, this "burns off" some of the organic waste that builds up in the tub and also causes small particles to coagulate, or flock, making them large enough to be removed by the filter.
2. **Quick clean the filter every week or two**, spray with **Instant Filter Cleaner**, allow to stand for 10 minutes, then rinse off with a high pressure garden hose nozzle (not a pressure washer). Work from the top of the filter, with the water flow at a 45 degree angle and wash in between all the pleats, ensuring that you remove any debris stuck between them. You can make this job even easier with a **Water Wand Filter Cleaner**.
3. Make sure that the filter is **thoroughly cleaned 2 to 3 months when you drain and refill your spa**, with **Immerse Filter Cleaner**, soak them overnight if possible, then rinse thoroughly with clean water and allow them to dry naturally.
4. You should have two sets of filters and use them on an alternating basis, switching between them every other week.
5. You should **ALWAYS let the filters dry naturally before re-using them** as this allows the filter element fibres to knit back together and the drying process also kills most bacteria that may be present in the filter.

continued.....

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## Spa Filter Maintenance - 10 Top Tips

6. Make sure you use "**Scum Absorber Sponges**" in your spa, they dramatically reduce the amount of oils and lotions that actually get into your filter.  
Remember to rinse them out after each spa use and replace them when they deteriorate, or no longer float, usually every 6 months.
7. Do not use household, kitchen, or bathroom cleaners on your spa or the filter. Do not use car polish or wax on your spa shell.
8. Make sure that the filter is seated properly in the filter compartment or skimmer, this ensures 100% filtration of the water passing through it.
9. Make sure you maintain proper water chemistry at all times. Filters are good, but they're not miracle workers and do not actually kill algae or bacteria!
10. The following products will cause your spa water to go cloudy and ultimately block up your filter: *hair spray, mousse or styling gel; deodorant; sun tan lotion; excess sweat; skin creams of any sort; excess soap in bathing suits.*

**ALWAYS ask people to have a soap-free shower before using your Hot Tub, this will reduce the amount of contaminants that enter your spa and consequently the amount of chemicals and time you have to devote to it.**

**We strongly recommend that filters are replaced every 12 months**, remember they are your front line defence against poor water quality and if good filtration is maintained it will reduce the amount of chemicals you have to add to your spa water and also help protect your hot tub's pumps and heater.

### **IMPORTANT NOTE**

**You must also replace the filter if any of the following occur:**

- a.) The filter becomes discoloured and is grey, brown or green in appearance.
- b.) You have bought a second hand hot tub
- c.) The filter element (the pleated fibre core) becomes flat & loses its fibrous sheen (this means the fibres have collapsed and can no longer filter effectively)
- d.) The filter top or bottom has a crack or split
- e.) The pleated element splits or starts to come apart.

**Following these simple guidelines will greatly assist  
in maintaining crystal clear water and keep your filter working  
at maximum efficiency for months and months !**