

SEPTEMBER 2016

This edition of TechTALK focuses on Sand Media Filters and the recommended guidelines for adding media to sand media filter tanks. Whether you're installing a brand new set of sand media filters or replacing media in an existing system, Netafim recommends following these guidelines.

IMPORTANT NOTE: Use of **gravel, stone, rocks or other materials** besides the recommended sand or silica media as indicated in the Silica Sand Data Chart (found in the Sand Media Filter Operations, Installation and Maintenance Guide) can cause damage to the underdrain and tank structure and voids the warranty.

- Inspect the filters for damage **BEFORE** adding media. It is unfortunate, but damage can occur during product shipment or with misuse and there is no better time to check for damage than when the filter is empty. Carefully inspect the mushrooms for damage and ensure that the diffuser complex (filter arm) is secured to the underdrain. Check all connections, including mushrooms, as components can loosen during shipping.

- We recommend filling the tanks half full of water **BEFORE** adding media. Of course this requires you to install and close an isolation valve directly downstream from the filters, but filling the tanks half full with water before adding media is a great way to check for leaks - especially if you have to drain the tank to repair a leak. It's a lot easier to drain water than sand. The water also cuts down on the amount of dust coming back out of the access port (usually directed at your face) while filling. It also helps to slow down the media before it comes in contact with the diffuser complex.

NOTE: In the event that water is not available, pour and spread the media evenly by hand across the underdrain to ensure even pressure distribution across the underdrain. Pouring all the media in a central location without distributing it evenly can cause damage to the underdrain.

- Sticks and stones may **BREAK** my filter. Many of us reach for boards, shovels, or other tools to help evenly distribute the media around the inside of a filter. Be careful. Too much force in the wrong place may inadvertently damage the mushrooms or diffuser complex. Pouring stone or gravel haphazardly into the filter tank is another way to damage the internal components.

Always refer to the manufacturer's guidelines for appropriate types and sizes of filtration media or contact a Netafim representative for assistance.

Thank you.

NETAFIM AGF SAND MEDIA FILTER

