

### Maintenance, housekeeping, replacement interval

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In most cases maintaining your Filcoflex products is a matter of housekeeping.

The media used to manufacture Woven fabric and Polyester needlefelt filter sock, breather bags and flexible connections will naturally wear over time due to the use.

Good maintenance and housekeeping will provide the best possible lifetime.

Do not use other tools than the tools meant to be used to assemble or disassemble Filcoflex products. Do not use sharp objects to pry or poke any part of the assembly, you may cause damage to the flexible connectors and breather bags.

If you have any difficulty removing parts of the assembly, please let us know and we may write you a recommendation for the use of safe tools or perhaps some simple trick for the job at hand.

For hygiene and performance reasons we recommend to replace the filter media and woven fabric filter socks, breather bags and flexible connectors on regular basis.

Filcoflex offer disposable solution for cost saving and hygienic and easy connection of breather bags. We will gladly send you more details.



Woven Fabric (without coating)  
Flexible connectors and sleeves



Polyester Needle Felt  
Breather bags and filter socks

### Manual Cleaning

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#### Woven Fabric (without coating)

##### Flexible Connectors, Socks and Breather bags.

- Agitate connector, sock, or bag in a bath of warm water mixed with some mild detergent and/or disinfectants.
- In case the contaminant is a milk powder or protein based medium; soak the connector sleeve or bag for about 9 – 12 hours in a 0.6% enzyme-based detergent.
- Rinse off the woven connector, sock or bag using a low-pressure hose, and/or a freshwater bath.
- If sanitation is required, you may need to immerse the connector, sock, or bag in a sanitation solution.
- Drain the flexible connector, sock, or bag.
- Dry the woven flexible connector, sock, or bag thoroughly.

#### Polyester Needlefelt

##### Flexible Connectors, Socks and Breather bags.

- Breather Bags, flexible connectors, and filter socks made from a polyester needle felt can be manually washed as described for woven fabrics, but it is not recommended. The filter media has a dust release surface which keeps it efficient in filtering and aids the dust and powder release. The filter media dust release surface will deteriorate when washing according to the prescribed method for woven fabrics. This will make the polyester needle felt filter sock, breather bag or flexible connector less effective every time it is washed.
- Compressed air cleaning can be considered. Blow off the dust or powder from the outside inward (reverse to its normal operating direction). You can use a compressed air gun. Do not use high pressure compressed air on short distance, this may damage the filter media. Use dry and oil free compressed air only.
- Vacuum cleaners can be used to clean the polyester needle felt.
- Shaking, knocking, and brushing also work to get the free the filter media surface of powder and dust.

#### Cleaning Flanges, seals, gaskets, fittings spigots and clamps

The most effective and easiest way to clean the metal parts like flanges, fittings, gaskets, seals, spigots and clamps is with the use of Ethanol or Isopropyl alcohol.



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### CIP - Clean In Place

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#### **Woven Fabric (without coating)**

##### **Flexible Connectors, Socks and Breather bags.**

Woven fabric flexible connectors, socks and breather bags are permeable and will leak fluids / liquids especially when under pressure during CIP. Pressurized fluid cleaning or CIP cleaning are not recommended.

If CIP cleaning is truly required it is possible, but please keep in mind that the media is porous to fluids.

#### **Polyester Needlefelt**

##### **Flexible Connectors, Socks and Breather bags.**

Are not recommended to clean using CIP, the filter media has a dust release surface which keeps it efficient in filtering and aids the dust and powder release. The filter media dust release surface will deteriorate when washing with CIP cleaning.

This will make the polyester needle felt filter sock, breather bag or flexible connector less effective every time it is washed.

#### **CIP restrictions**

If your CIP cleaning process involve the use of chemicals, we recommend to not to exceed the following concentration percentages. The maximum concentrations recommended are:

- Acid: no more than 0.8%
- Caustic: no more than 1.5%

Any greater concentration does not increase the cleaning system efficiency and will not offer any benefits. Any greater concentration may also damage other parts such as gaskets, seals, and flexible sleeves.

#### **After CIP**

- Always wipe your flexible connector, filter sock or breather bag after CIP cleaning.
- We recommend removing all flexible connectors, filter socks and breather bags after CIP to clean any remaining chemicals, both inside and outside.
- Clean all mating flanges, pipe ends, spigots or ferules prior to re-installing your flexible connector, filter sock or breather bag.

### **IMPORTANT**

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ALWAYS make sure your woven fabric or polyester needle felt flexible connector, filter sock or breather bag is dry before you use it again, to avoid powder sticking to the surface and building up.

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