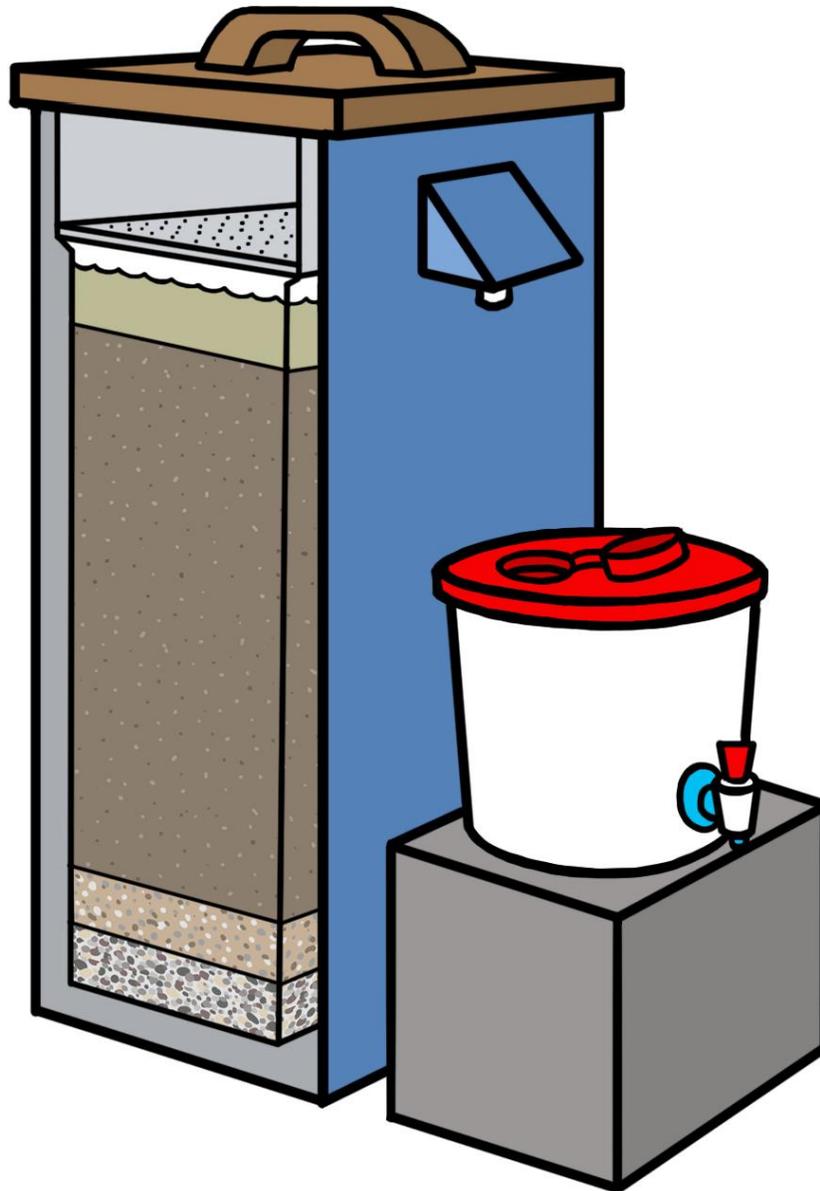


# BIOSAND FILTER FOR TECHNICIANS

---

A CAWST PARTICIPANT MANUAL  
January 2012 Edition







12, 2916 – 5<sup>th</sup> Avenue  
Calgary, Alberta, T2A 6K4, Canada  
Phone: + 1 (403) 243-3285, Fax: + 1 (403) 243-6199  
E-mail: [cawst@cawst.org](mailto:cawst@cawst.org), Website: [www.cawst.org](http://www.cawst.org)

CAWST is a Canadian non-profit organization focused on the principle that clean water changes lives. Safe water and basic sanitation are fundamentals necessary to empower the world's poorest people and to break the cycle of poverty. CAWST believes that the place to start is to teach people the skills they need to have safe water in their homes.

CAWST transfers knowledge and skills to organizations and individuals in developing countries through education, training and consulting services. This ever expanding network can motivate individual households to take action to meet their own water and sanitation needs.

One of CAWST's core strategies is to make knowledge about water common knowledge. This is achieved, in part, by developing and freely distributing education materials with the intent of increasing its availability to those who need it most.

This document is open content and licensed under the Creative Commons Attribution Works 3.0 Unported License. To view a copy of this license, visit <http://creativecommons.org/licenses/by/3.0/> or send a letter to Creative Commons, 171 Second Street, Suite 300, San Francisco, California 94105, USA.

You are free to:

- Share - to copy, distribute and transmit this document
- Remix - to adapt this document

Under the following conditions:

- Attribution. You must give credit to CAWST as the original source of this document (but not in any way that suggests that CAWST endorses you or your use of this document).

CAWST and its directors, employees, contractors and volunteers do not assume any responsibility for and make no warranty with respect to the results that may be obtained from the use of the information provided.



## Table of Contents

---

	<b>Page</b>
Abbreviations .....	iii
Measurement Conversions .....	iii
Drawings of the Biosand Filter .....	iv
<b>PART 1: WHAT IS A BIOSAND FILTER?</b> .....	<b>1</b>
The Multi-Barrier Approach to Safe Drinking Water .....	2
What is a Biosand Filter? .....	4
How Does a BSF Work? .....	4
The Parts of a BSF .....	5
What Does Each Part Do? .....	6
How Does the BSF Make Water Safe? .....	8
What Happens to the Pathogens and Dirt in the Filter? .....	8
What Makes the BSF Special? The Biolayer! .....	9
What Kind of Water Can I Use? .....	10
What Should I Check When I Visit a Filter? .....	11
Self-Review .....	13
<b>PART 2: BIOSAND FILTER CONSTRUCTION MANUAL</b> .....	<b>15</b>
BSF Construction Process .....	17
Construction Safety .....	18
Stage A: Set Up a Production Site .....	19
You will need... .....	20
Stage B: Find Sand and Gravel .....	25
1. What kind of sand do I need? .....	26
2. Where can I find sand? .....	26
3. Dry the sand and gravel .....	29
Stage C: Sieve the Sand and Gravel .....	31
1. Concrete sand and gravel (for making the container) .....	32
2. Filtration sand and gravel (for inside the filter) .....	34
3. Sieve options .....	36
4. Tips for sieving the sand and gravel .....	37
5. Store the sieved sand and gravel .....	38
Stage D: Wash the Filtration Sand and Gravel .....	39

1. Wash the separation and drainage gravel (for inside the filter) .....	40
2. Wash the filtration sand (for inside the filter) .....	41
3. Store the filtration sand and gravel .....	44
Stage E: Make the Concrete Container .....	45
1. Prepare the mold .....	46
2. Pour the filter .....	48
3. Remove the filter from the mold .....	50
4. Finish the concrete container .....	53
5. Make the filter look nice .....	55
Stage F: Make the Diffuser .....	57
Stage G: Make the Lid .....	59
Stage H: Install the Filter .....	61
1. Things to take with you for an installation .....	63
2. Transport the filter and supplies for installation .....	64
3. Position .....	65
4. Put in the sand and gravel .....	65
5. Check the flow rate .....	69
6. Flush the filter .....	72
7. Disinfect the outlet tube .....	73
Stage I: Educate the User .....	75
1. How to use the filter .....	76
2. How to clean the filter .....	78
3. Safe water storage .....	80
4. How to clean a safe storage container .....	81
5. Using your treated water .....	82
Stage F: Follow-Up With the User .....	83
1. Follow-up visits .....	84
2. How to do a household visit .....	84
3. Things to check during a follow-up visit .....	85
Self Review .....	89
Appendix 1: Monitoring Forms	
Appendix 2: Troubleshooting Guide	
Appendix 3: Diffuser and Lid Designs	
Appendix 4: The Cost of a Biosand Filter	

## Abbreviations

cm	centimetre
ft	foot
ft <sup>2</sup>	square foot
kg	kilogram
L	litre
m	metre
m <sup>2</sup>	square metre
min	minute
mL	millilitre
mm	millimetre
oz	ounce
lb	pound
'	foot
"	inch

## Measurement Conversions

### Flow Rate

0.4 L/min (litres per minute) = 400 mL/min (millilitres per minute)

0.4 L/min is the same as getting 1 litre of water in 2 ½ minutes (2 minutes and 30 seconds)

0.4 L/min is the same as 13.5 US-ounces per minute

1 litre in 2 minutes 30 seconds is the same as 33.8 US-ounces in 2 minutes 30 seconds

### Length or Distance

1 foot = 0.30 metres

1 metre = 3.28 feet

1 inch = 25.4 mm

1 inch = 2.54 cm

1 cm = 0.39 inches

1 mm = 0.1 cm

1 cm = 10 mm

### Volume

1 gallon = 3.78 litres

1 litre = 0.26 gallons

1 litre = 33.8 fluid oz (US)

400 mL = 13.5 fluid oz (US)

1 litre = 1000 millilitres

1 litre = 0.9 quarts (dry)

### Area

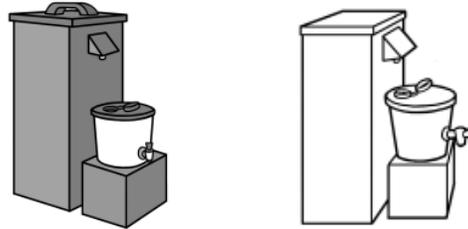
1 m<sup>2</sup> = 10.76 ft<sup>2</sup>

1 ft<sup>2</sup> = 0.09 m<sup>2</sup>

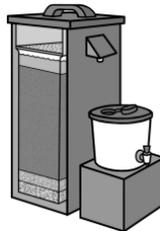
## Drawings of the Biosand Filter

The biosand filter is a large box. If it is sitting on the ground, it will come up to your waist, or higher. In this manual, the biosand filter is drawn in many ways. All of the drawings below show the biosand filter.

3-Dimensional – these drawings of the biosand filter show height, width and depth.



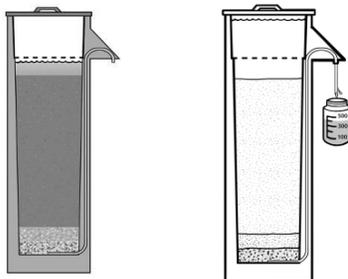
3-Dimensional Cut-Away – these drawings show the biosand filter with one wall removed so you can see the layers of sand and gravel. In real life, you can not see inside the filter because the wall is there.



2-Dimensional – these drawings show the biosand filter as if you were looking at it from the side.



2-Dimensional Cut-Away – these drawings also show the filter from the side, but with a wall removed so you can see what is inside the filter. In real life, if you were looking at the filter from the side, you would not be able to see inside the filter.



## **PART 1: WHAT IS A BIOSAND FILTER?**

## The Multi-Barrier Approach to Safe Drinking Water

**There are 5 steps to getting safe drinking water.** The 5 steps are called the Multi-Barrier Approach to safe drinking water. Each step is a “barrier” that stops dirt and pathogens from getting into the water you drink and making you sick. Doing 1 of the steps will make your water safer to drink. But you will get the safest water by doing all 5 steps.

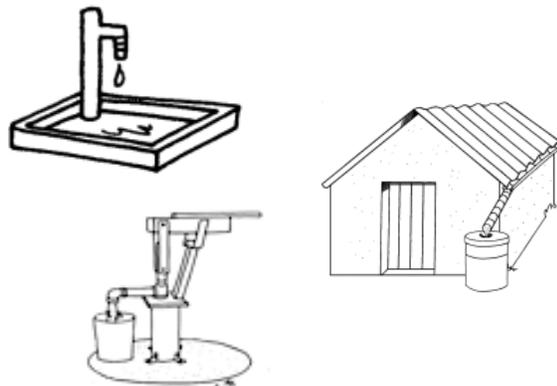
All 5 steps are followed in big cities and in modern water treatment plants. All 5 steps can also be done on a household or village level. The steps are:

1. Protect your source water
2. Sediment your water
3. Filter your water
4. Disinfect your water
5. Store your water safely

# 1

### Protect your source water

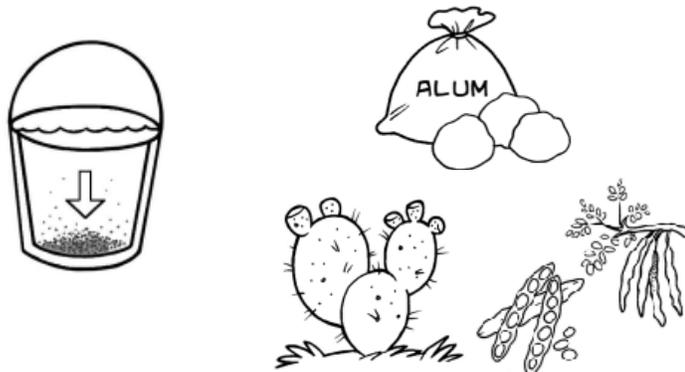
Keep it clean. Keep human and animal waste out. Don't let any other water mix with the water—keep surface flow, runoff and wastewater out.



# 2

### Sediment your water

Let the dirt and large particles in the water fall to the bottom. You can either leave it to settle on it's own or use alum, moringa seeds or prickly pear cactus to help the dirt settle.

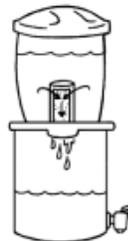


## The Multi-Barrier Approach to Safe Drinking Water – Continued

**3**

### Filter your water

Filter out the rest of the dirt and larger pathogens that make you sick. You can use a filter like a biosand filter, a ceramic candle filter or a ceramic pot filter.



**4**

### Disinfect your water

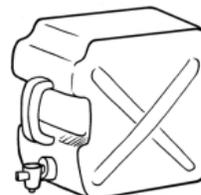
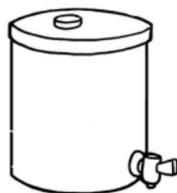
After removing the dirt and large particles, disinfecting the water will get rid of any of the pathogens that are left — even the very small ones that were too small to be filtered out of the water. You can use chlorine, boiling, or solar disinfection (SODIS).



**5**

### Store your water safely

Keep your treated water in a container that will keep it from getting dirty again.



Use a tap to get the water out, or pour it out.



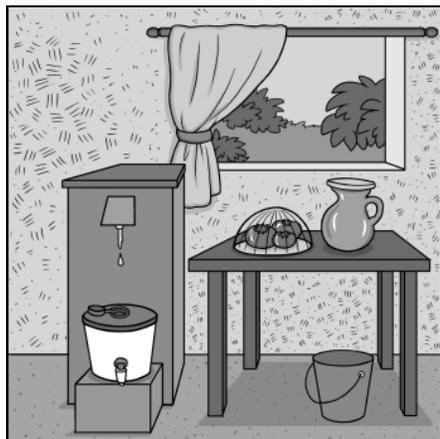
Clean your safe water storage containers regularly.



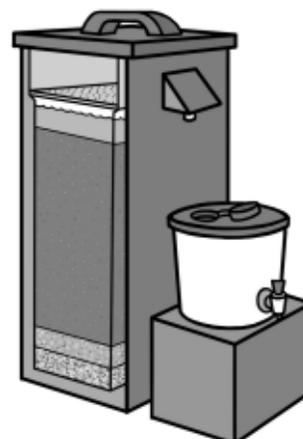
Use a different bucket for collecting water from the source and for storing treated water.



## What is a Biosand Filter?

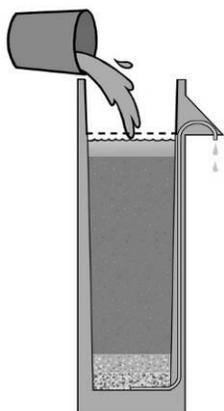


The biosand filter is also called a BSF. It is a water filter that makes dirty water safe to drink. It can be used in houses or buildings like schools. It can be made of concrete or plastic. It is filled with layers of sand and gravel that are carefully prepared to go inside the filter.



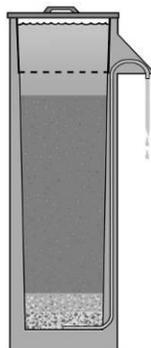
The biosand filter is in the “Filter Your Water” step of the multi-barrier approach to safe water.

## How Does a BSF Work?



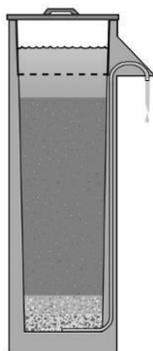
**1** Pour a bucket of dirty water in the top of the filter. Water will start to flow out of the tube. Put the lid back on the filter.

The filter should be filled between 1 and 4 times every day.

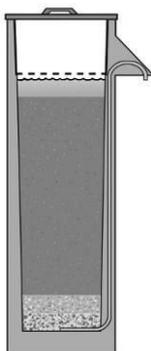


**2** The top of the filter is called the reservoir. It can hold 12 litres of water—about 1 bucket.

Water coming out will flow fastest when the reservoir is full.



**3** It usually takes at least 1 hour for the water to stop flowing.

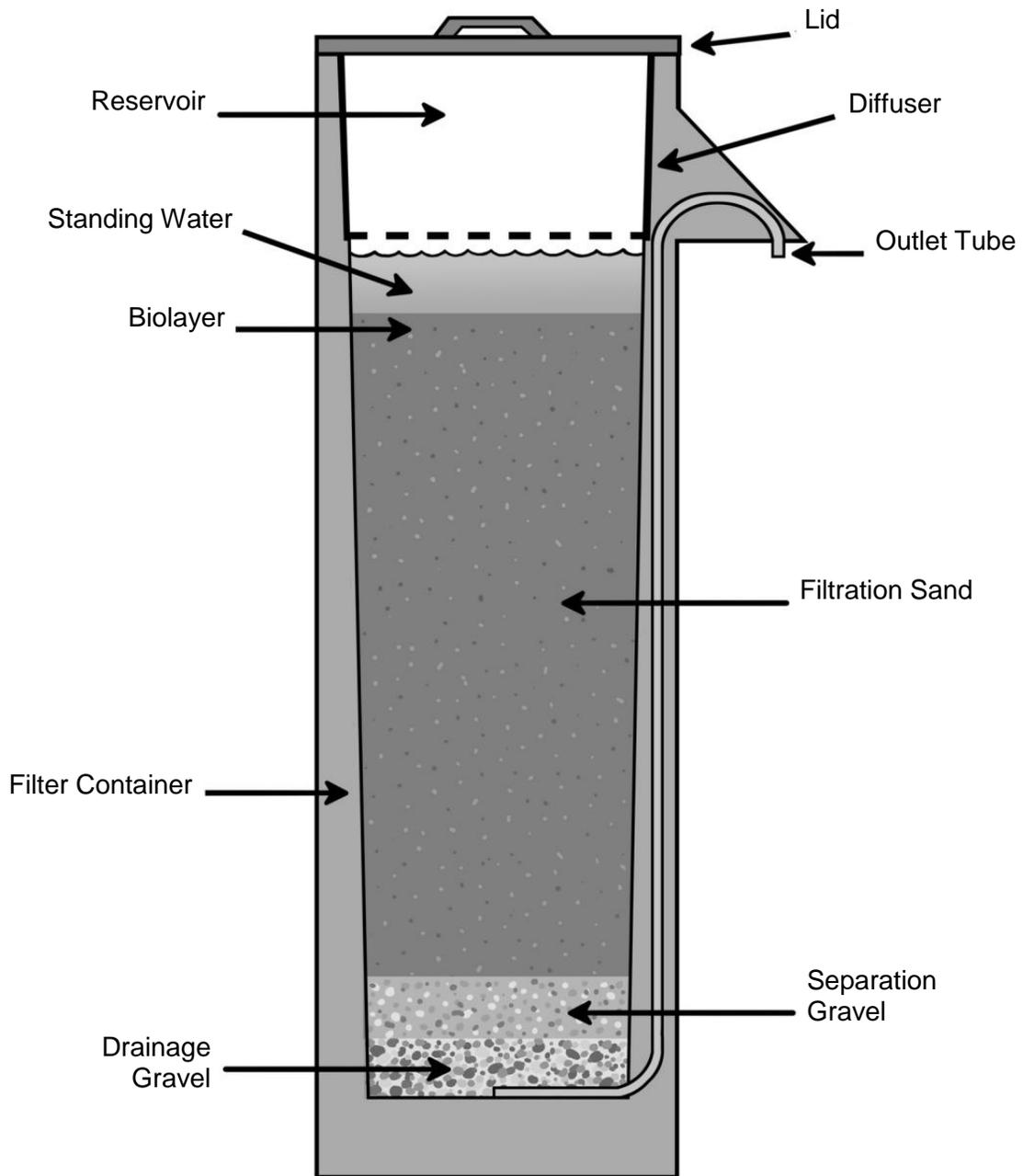


**4** After the water stops flowing, the filter must rest. The filter must rest for at least 1 hour before pouring in more water.

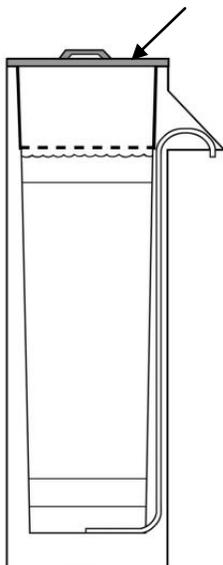
This is called the **Pause Period**.

## The Parts of a BSF

---

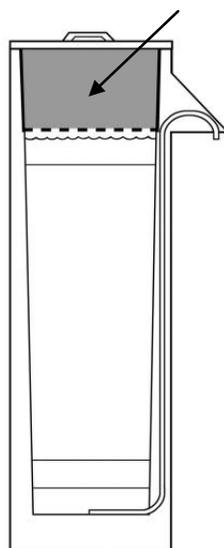


## What Does Each Part Do?



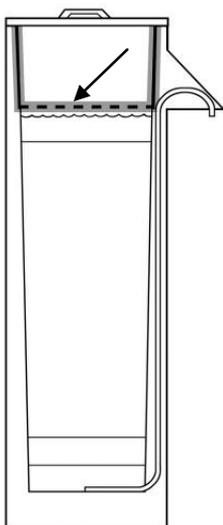
### Lid

The lid should be tight. It keeps insects out and stops other things from falling into the BSF.



### Reservoir

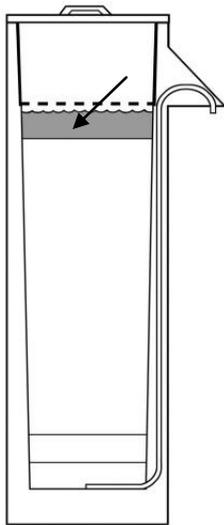
The top of the filter where water is poured in is called the reservoir. The reservoir can hold about 12 litres, or one bucket of water.



### Diffuser

The diffuser catches the water poured into the BSF. It can be a box or a plate. It has little holes in it, so the water slowly drips through to the sand.

The diffuser protects the top of the sand when you pour the water in. If the diffuser was not there, the water would make holes in the sand and may hurt the biolayer.



### Standing Water

When the water stops flowing, there should be 5 cm of water on top of the sand. This keeps the biolayer wet. The biolayer will die if it dries.

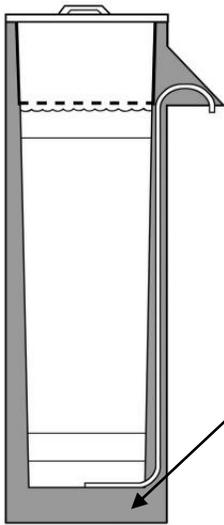
Air can still get to the biolayer through 5 cm of water. But if there is much more than 5 cm of water, air cannot get through and the biolayer will die.

### What is the most important part?

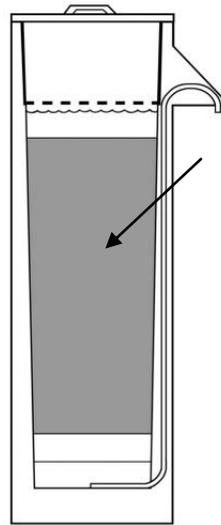
The sand!

The sand removes pathogens from the water. The biolayer lives in the sand. If you do not get the right kind of sand, or do not prepare the sand properly, the biosand filter will not work well.

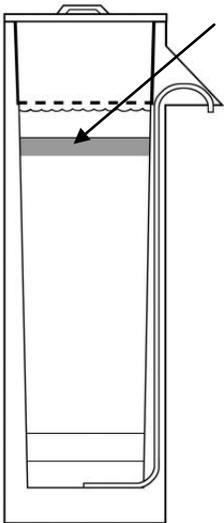
## What Does Each Part Do? –Continued



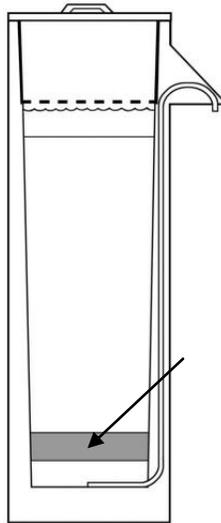
**Filter Container**  
The container can be made out of concrete or plastic. It can be square or round. It holds the sand, gravel and water. It can be painted on the outside to make it look nice.



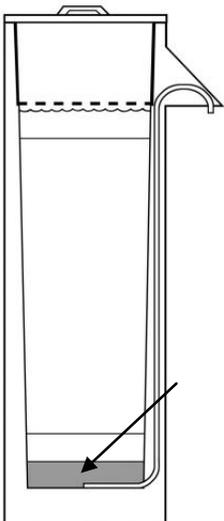
**Filtration Sand**  
The sand inside the filter is the most important part. The sand removes almost all the pathogens and dirt from the water. The sand must be prepared correctly for the filter to work.



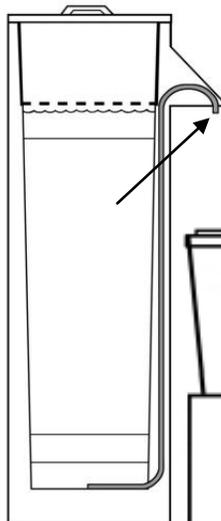
**Biolayer**  
The biolayer is the top layer of sand where very small microbes live. You cannot see them - they are too small. They eat the pathogens in the water that make you sick.



**Separation Gravel**  
The small gravel stops the sand from moving and blocking the outlet tube.



**Drainage Gravel**  
The large gravel stops the small gravel from moving and blocking the outlet tube. The large gravel is too big to get inside the outlet tube.



**Outlet tube**  
Water that comes out of the outlet tube is safe to drink. The tube can be made out of soft plastic or copper.  
You must have a clean Safe Storage Container to collect the water as it flows out of the outlet tube.

## How Does the BSF Make Water Safe?

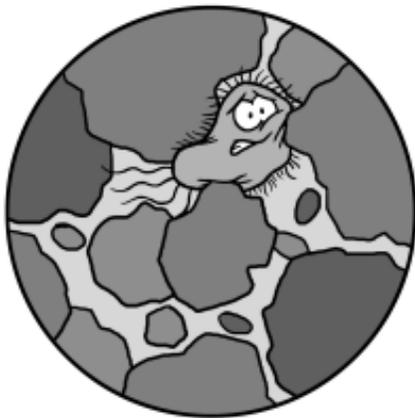
---

There are very, very small living creatures called **microbes** in water. They are so small you can't see them with your eyes. Some of them make you sick when you drink them – these ones are called **pathogens**. The biosand filter removes almost all of the dirt and pathogens from water.

 For the safest drinking water, you should also disinfect the water after filtering it, by using chlorine, SODIS or boiling.

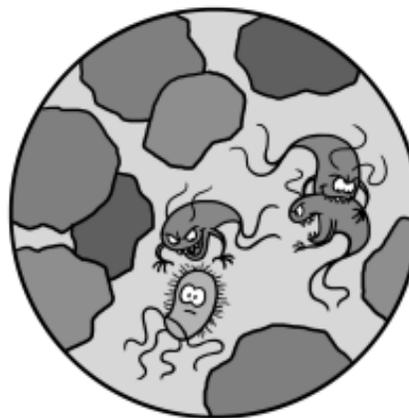
## What Happens to the Pathogens and Dirt in the Filter?

---



### They get trapped in the sand

The water can flow through the sand, but some dirt and pathogens are too big to fit through.



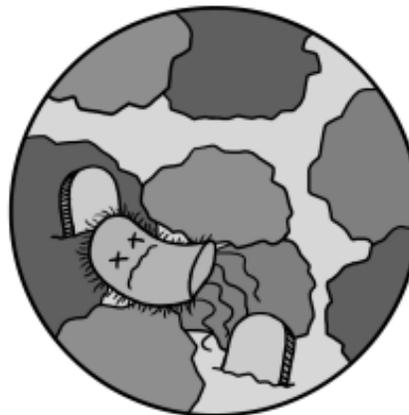
### They get eaten

The microbes eat each other inside the filter, especially in the biolayer.



### They get stuck to sand

Some pathogens stick to the sand and can't get away.

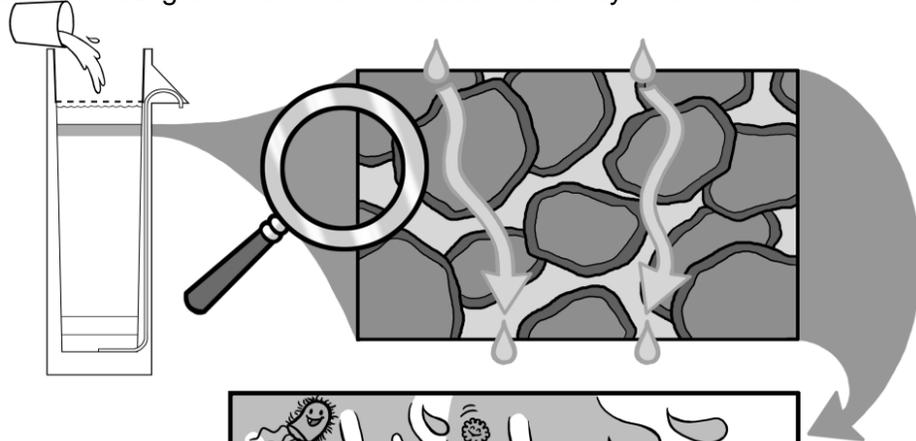


### They die

Some pathogens die because there isn't enough food or air for them inside the BSF.

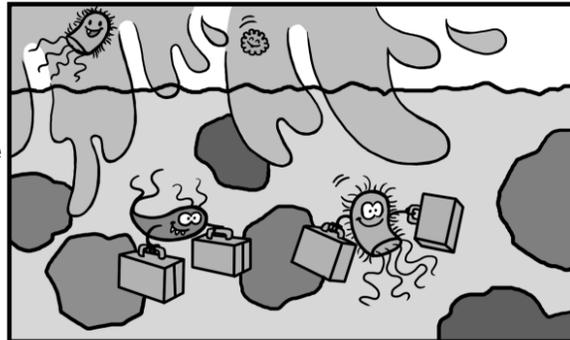
## What Makes the BSF Special? The Biolayer!

In a BSF, small microbes live in the top of the sand. This is called the **BIOLAYER**. The biolayer is very important for making the water safe to drink. The biolayer takes about 30 days to grow.



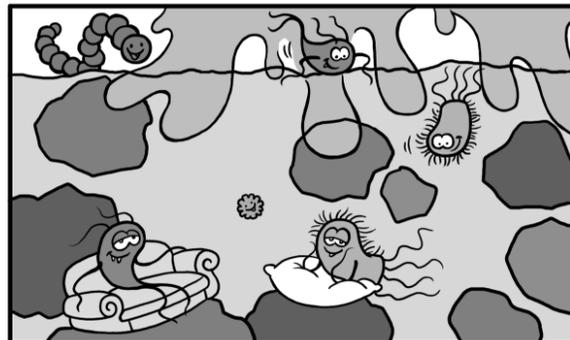
Day 1

Many microbes live in water. They are too small to see, but they are there! When you pour water into the filter, the microbes start living in the top of the sand.



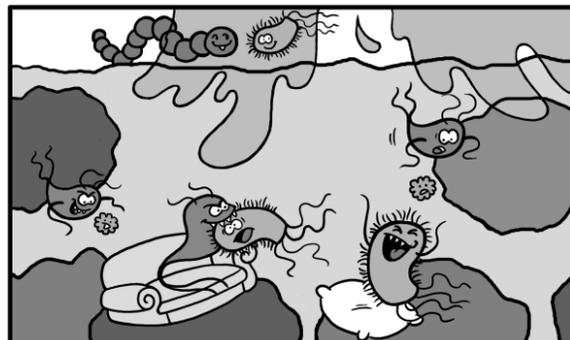
Day 15

As you keep using the filter, more and more microbes start to live in the sand. The biolayer grows. The microbes get comfortable and start looking for food.



Day 30

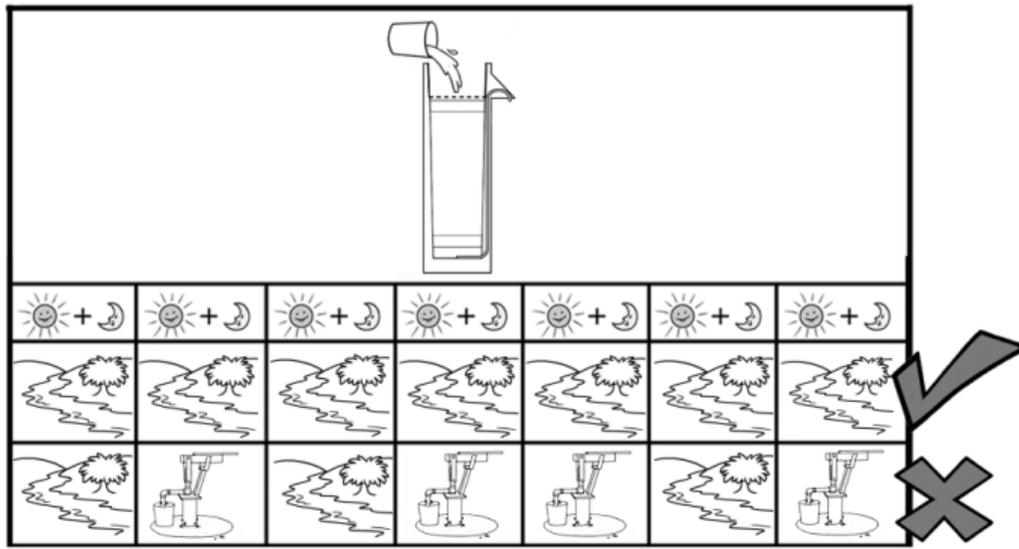
After a few weeks, the microbes start to eat each other. Now every time you pour water in, the microbes living in the sand will eat the new microbes in the water, including the pathogens.



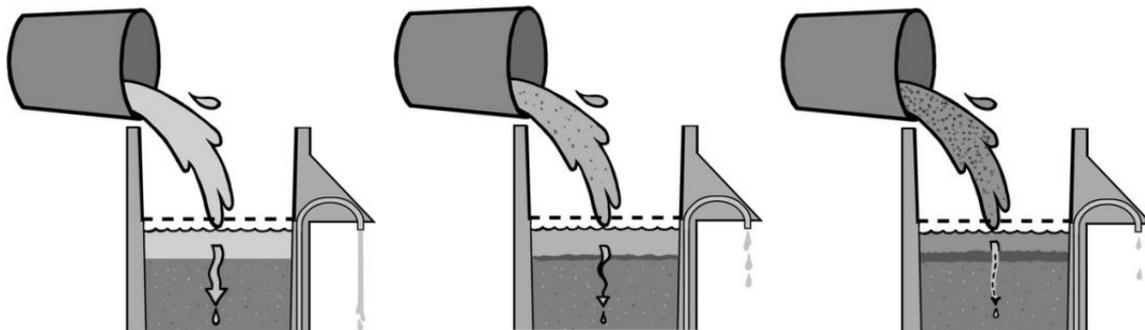
## What Kind of Water Can I Use?

You can use **any kind of water** in the BSF: water from the river, from a pond, from a well, or rainwater. **It is best to use water from the same source every time in the filter.**

If you change the water source, for example, when the rainy season starts, it will take a few days for the microbes living in the filter to get used to the new water. For a few days, the water coming out of the filter may not be as good quality as usual. You can drink this water, but it is a good idea to also disinfect the filtered water using chlorine, SODIS or boiling.



**Clear water is best.** Try to use the clearest water you can in the filter.



*Clear water*

The filter will work well. You will not have to clean the top of the sand very often.

*Dirty water*

After a few weeks, the filter will become slow. You will have to clean the top of the sand sometimes to make it flow faster.

*Very dirty water*

The filter will quickly become very slow. You will often have to clean the top of the sand to make it flow faster.

If you have dirty water, sediment the dirt out of the water by letting it sit in a bucket for a few hours before pouring it into the BSF.

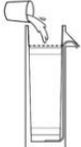


## What Should I Check When I Visit a Filter?

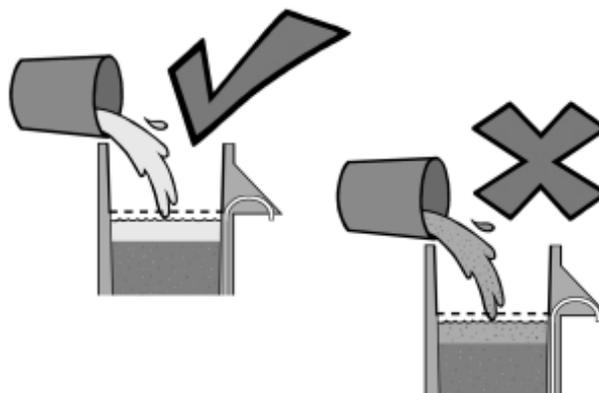
There are 8 important points to check when you visit a filter. Sometime they are called the **8 Operating Parameters**. If these 8 points are good, then the filter is probably working well.

**1 The filter was installed more than 30 days ago.** It takes 30 days for the biolayer to grow and be working well.

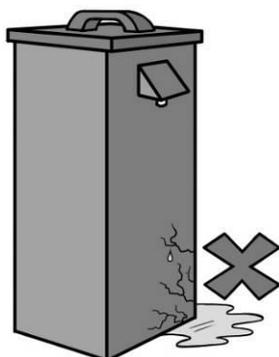
						
						
✓ 1	✓ 2	✓ 3	✓ 4	✓ 5	✓ 6	✓ 7
✓ 8	✓ 9	✓ 10	✓ 11	✓ 12	✓ 13	✓ 14
✓ 15	✓ 16	✓ 17	✓ 18	✓ 19	✓ 20	✓ 21
✓ 22	✓ 23	✓ 24	✓ 25	✓ 26	✓ 27	✓ 28
✓ 29	✓ 30					

**2 The filter is used at least once every day.** But don't forget: after the water stops running, you must wait at least 1 hour before filling it again.

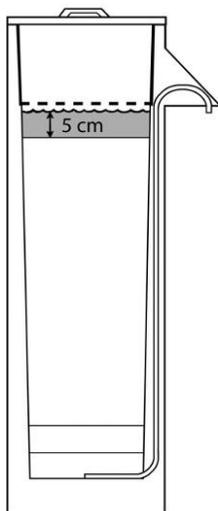
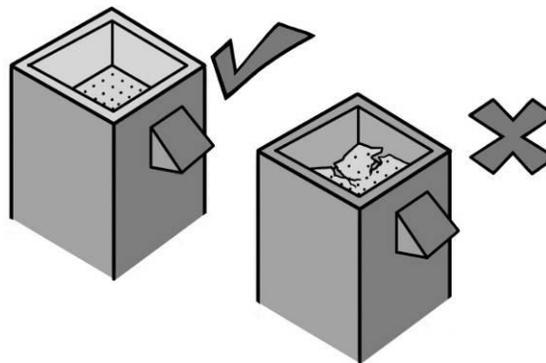


**3 The water poured into the BSF is not too dirty.** If you only have dirty or cloudy water, leave it in a bucket until the dirt has fallen to the bottom. Pour the clear water in the bucket into the BSF.



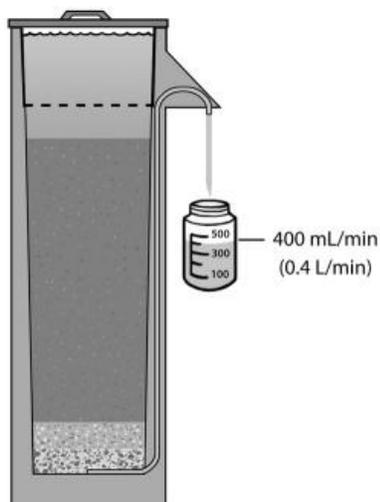
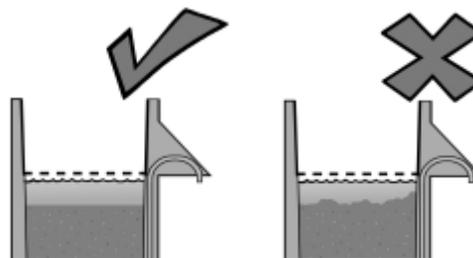
**4 The filter box does not have cracks and is not leaking.** Users will not usually like filters that don't look nice or that make a mess. They may not use the filter.

**5 There is a diffuser.** It should be in good condition, so the biolayer is protected when you pour the water in. There should be no cracks or large holes.



**6 When the water stops running, the water surface is 5cm above the top of the sand.** If you don't have a ruler with you, 5 cm is about the length of your middle finger from the tip to the second knuckle.

**7 The top of the sand is flat and level.** If there are dents or “valleys” in the sand, the biolayer may be hurt (see page 3).



**8 When the filter is full, the flow rate is 400 mL or less per minute.** If you get more than 400 mL in one minute, the sand was washed too much and the water coming out may have some pathogens in it.

*\*Note: The flow rate should be 400 mL or less per minute for the newest filter design (Version 10). If you are using older molds (Version 8 or 9), the flow rate should be 600 mL or less per minute.*

## Self-Review

---

Try to answer these questions by yourself to see if you understood the information.

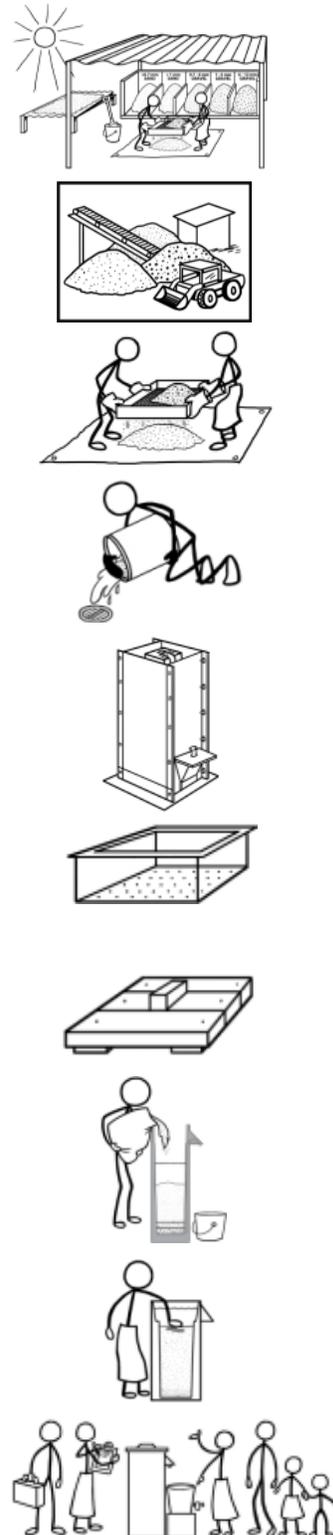
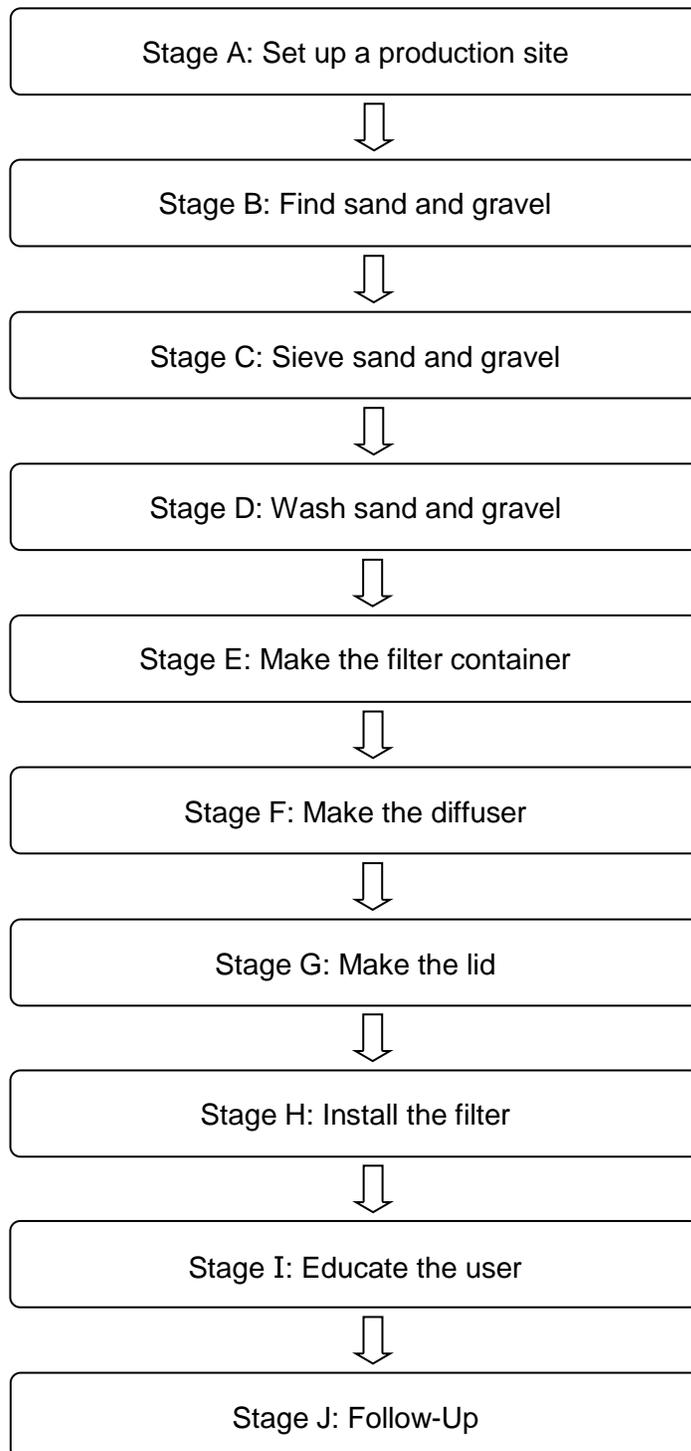
1. What is a pathogen?
2. List the 4 ways a BSF removes pathogens and dirt from water.
3. What is the biolayer?
4. What should you do if you only have very dirty water and want to pour it into a BSF?
5. What is the most important part of a BSF?
6. List the 8 important things to check to see if a BSF is working properly.



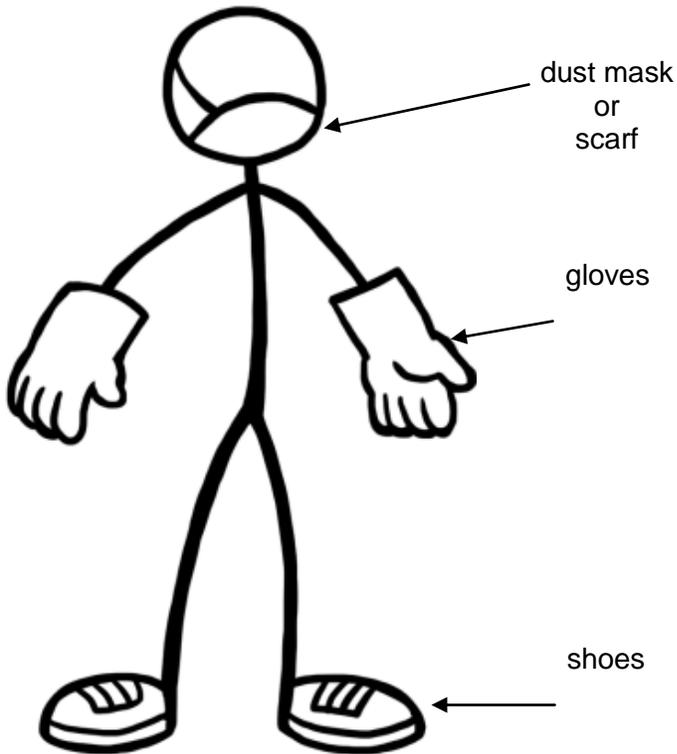
## **PART 2: BIOSAND FILTER CONSTRUCTION MANUAL**



## BSF Construction Process



## Construction Safety



Make sure everyone knows where the FIRST AID KIT is located.



Make sure everyone knows WHO TO CALL in an emergency.

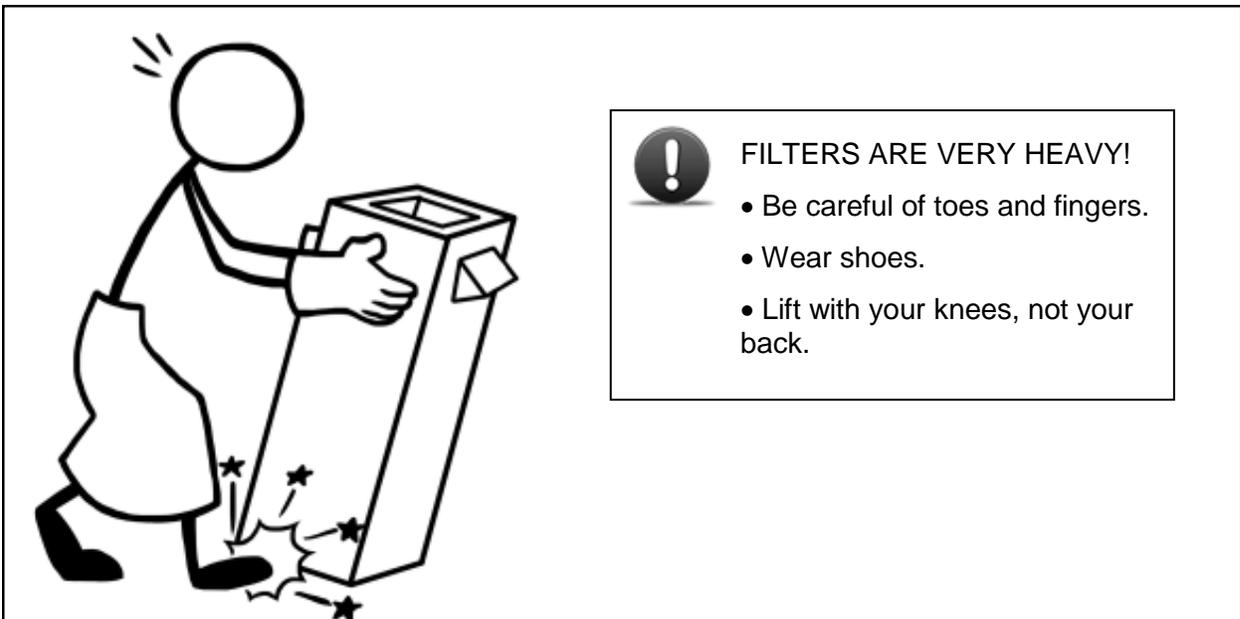


**WARNING:** Cement can burn your skin. Do not touch cement with bare hands!



**FILTERS ARE VERY HEAVY!**

- Be careful of toes and fingers.
- Wear shoes.
- Lift with your knees, not your back.



## Stage A: Set Up a Production Site



## Stage A: Set Up a Production Site

---

You will need a work space to make biosand filters. The place where you make filters and prepare the sand and gravel is called the Production Site.

How much space you need depends on how many filters you will make. You could also have an office at the same location.

These are the things you need to think about when you are looking for a production site and setting it up.

### You will need...

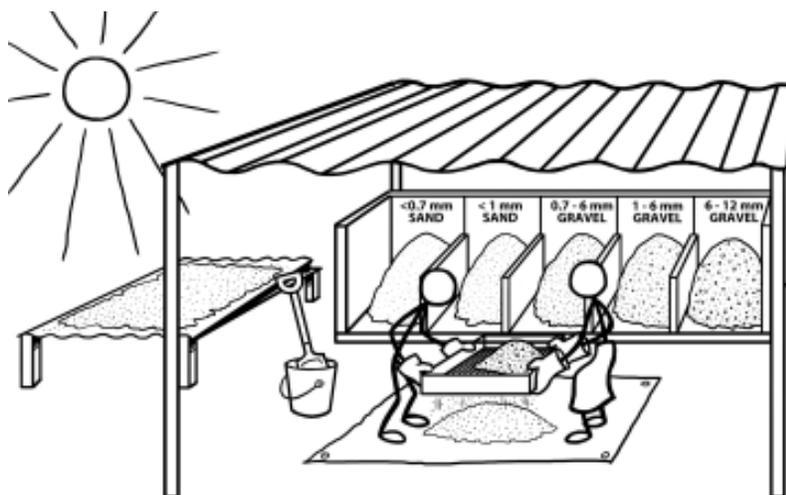
- Covered areas to work in the shade
- Areas to mix concrete, store filters, and paint filters
- An area to sieve and wash sand
- Access to water (tap or pump)
- Drains for wastewater
- Road access
- Toilets and hand washing facilities
- Somewhere to lock up valuable tools and supplies, such as a storage room or shed
- Electricity (optional) - if you need lights or if you will be using power tools or electric vibrators. This is a decision you can make if you are making a lot of filters for a big project.

## Stage A: Set Up a Production Site

### You will need...

#### Area for Sieving Sand and Gravel

- Covered area to store unsieved sand and gravel
- Raised table or platform in the sun to dry sand for sieving
- Covered area to sieve sand and gravel
- Tarp or concrete floor to sieve sand and gravel on
- Covered areas to store sieved sand and gravel



#### Area for Washing Sand and Gravel

- Covered area to wash sand and gravel
- Covered area to store washed sand and gravel
- Covered area to put washed sand and gravel in bags
- Covered area to store bags of sand and gravel ready for delivery
- Water source and drain
- Should be near the piles of sieved sand and gravel



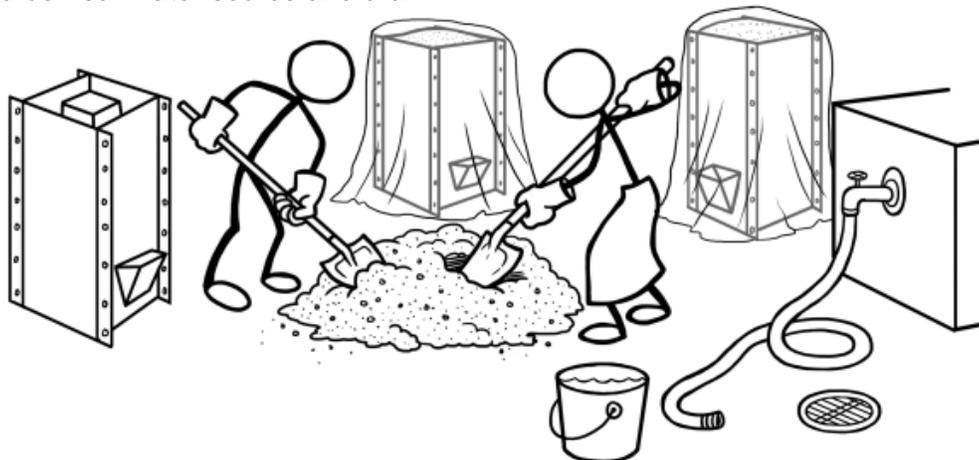
## Stage A: Set Up a Production Site

---

### You will need...

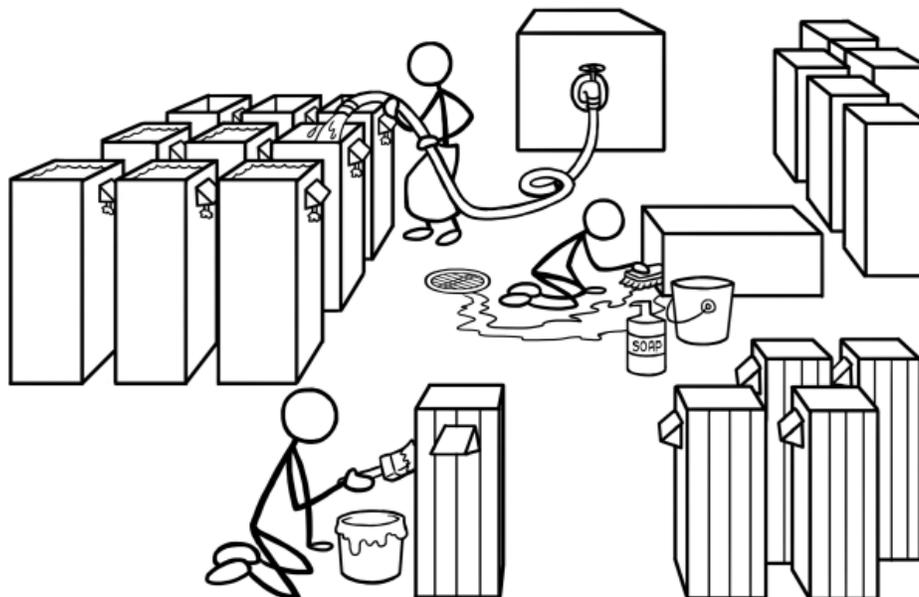
#### Filter Pouring Area

- Floor space for mixing concrete
- Area to pour filters, let them stand for 24 hours and demold filter
- Should be near water source and drain



#### Filter Finishing Area

- Area to fill the filters with water and to let the filters cure for 5 to 7 days
- Area to clean filters
- Area to store clean filters ready to be painted
- Area to paint filters
- Area to store painted filters ready for delivery
- Water source and drain



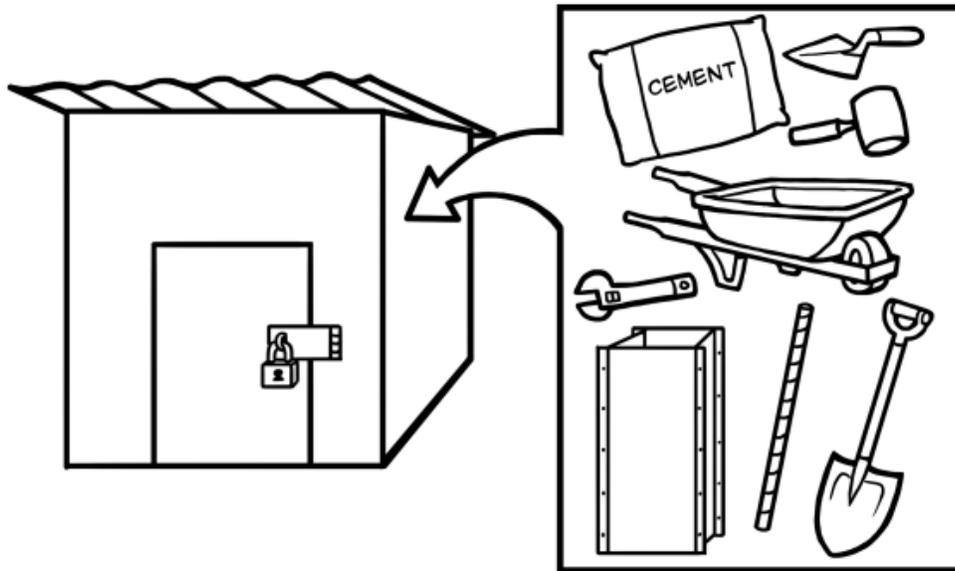
## Stage A: Set Up a Production Site

---

### You will need...

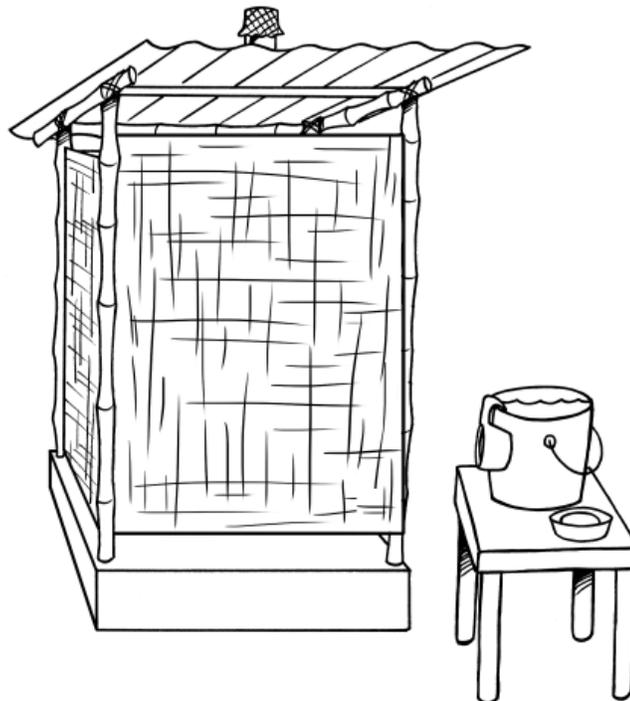
Locked Storage Area for valuable items

- Storage area with walls, a roof, and a door with a lock



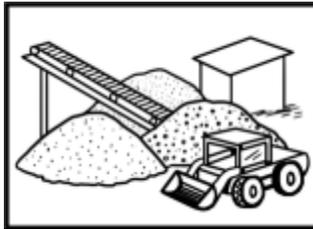
Latrines with hand washing

- Optional: an area for technicians to change clothes





## Stage B: Find Sand and Gravel



## Stage B: Find Sand and Gravel

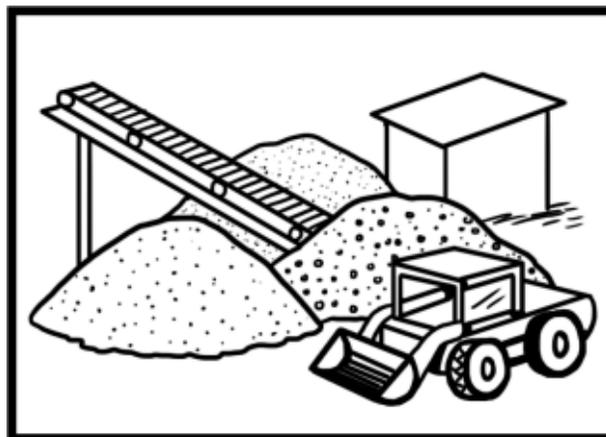
### 1. What kind of sand do I need?

Sand with MANY DIFFERENT GRAIN SIZES, and CLEAN with no leaves, sticks, or salt.

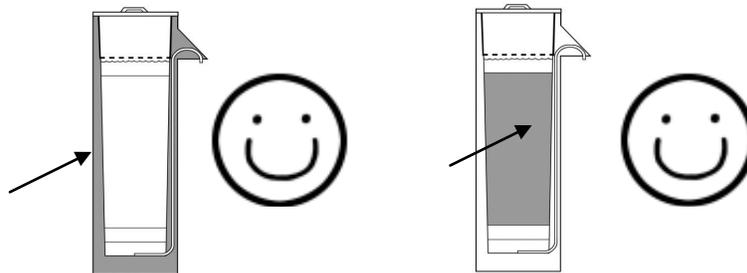
### 2. Where can I find sand?

#### #1 ROCK CRUSHER

Sand and gravel from a rock crushing machine is called crushed rock. Crushed rock has many different sized grains and is clean.

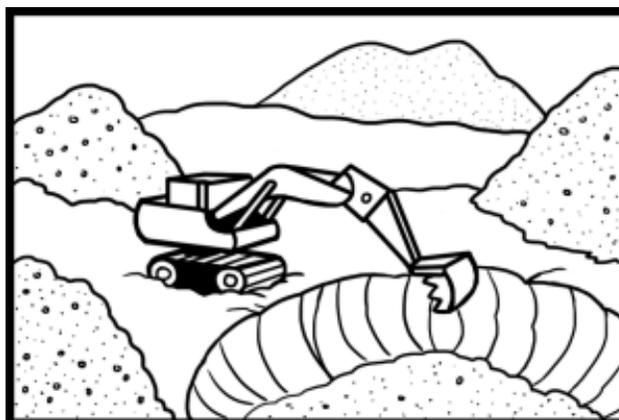


Crushed rock is the BEST sand and gravel to use for the concrete and for inside the filter.

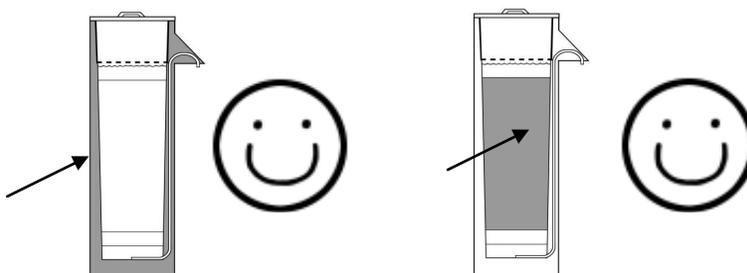


#### #2 SAND QUARRY

You can also get sand from a sand quarry or pit. Sometimes you can get gravel there too. It is usually not as clean as crushed rock.



Use quarry sand if you cannot find crushed rock. Check to make sure the sand has a variety of grain sizes, and that it is clean.



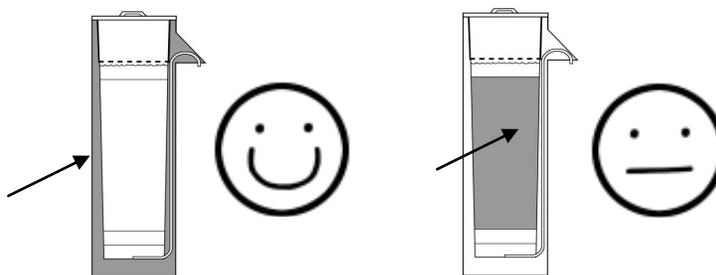
## Stage B: Find Sand and Gravel

### #3 RIVER

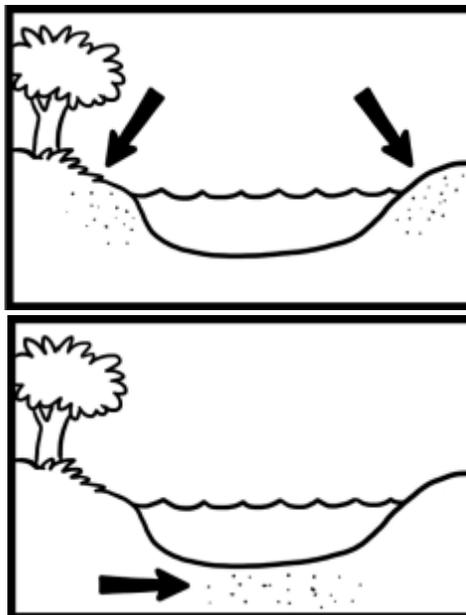
The sand and gravel from a river are not clean. It will have dirt, leaves and sticks, and pathogens in it. If you use river sand, it will take more work to get it clean.



You can use river sand to make the concrete filter container. River sand is not good sand for inside the filter.



Try to find quarry sand and gravel for inside the filter. If you have to use river sand, use sand from the side banks of the river, not from the bottom of the river. Sand from the banks will have less pathogens in it.



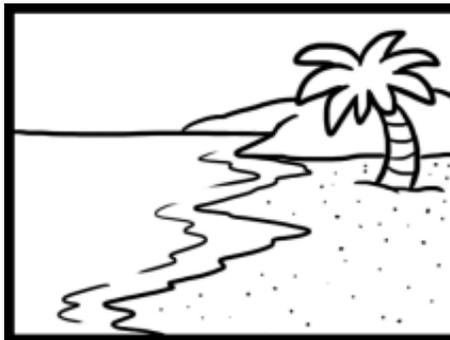
Crushed rock makes the best filter. It may be hard to find and it may be more expensive than river sand. But you should use crushed rock!

If crushed rock is very expensive, buy crushed rock to use only for the sand and gravel inside the filter. You can buy river sand and construction gravel to use in the concrete filter container.

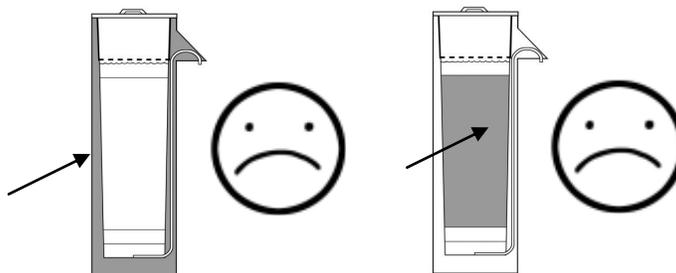
## Stage B: Find Sand and Gravel

### #4 BEACH

Only use sand from a lake or ocean beach if there is no other kind of sand. Beach sand does not have many different grain sizes. It will have plant pieces and dirt in it, so it will take a lot of work to get it clean. There may also be some salt stuck to the sand. This will make the filtered water taste salty at the beginning.

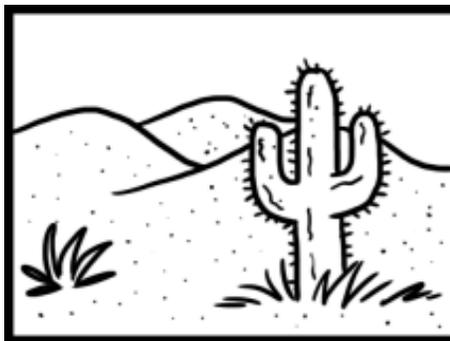


Don't use beach sand for the filter if you can find another kind of sand.

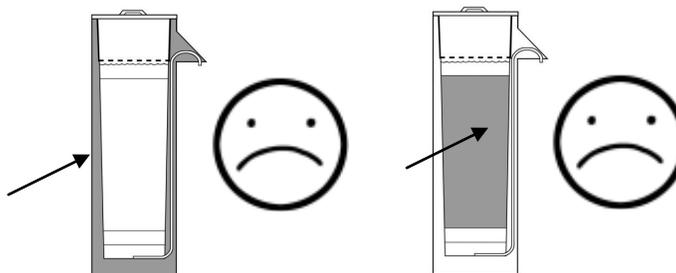


### #5 DESERT

Sand from the desert will not have many different sizes. It is not very good sand to use.



Don't use desert sand for the filter if you can find another kind of sand.



**TIP:** You can buy sand from one place, and gravel from another place. Often you buy sand and gravel mixed together.

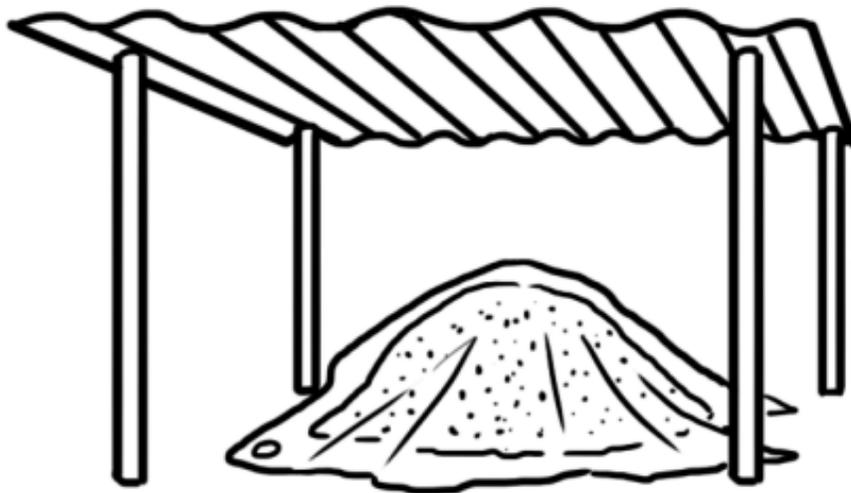
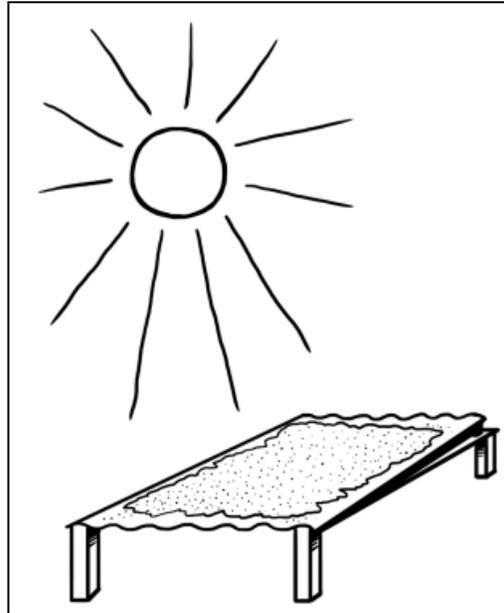
## Stage B: Find Sand and Gravel

---

### 3. Dry the sand and gravel

When the sand and gravel is delivered to your production site, you need to dry it and store it until you are ready to sieve it.

- If the sand is wet, dry it.
- Spread the sand very thin on a platform or table that is up above the ground. Turn it with a shovel sometimes so it all gets very dry.
- Be careful the sand does not get dirty. Dirt and leaves can blow into the sand while it is drying.
- Store the dry sand where it will stay dry and clean.



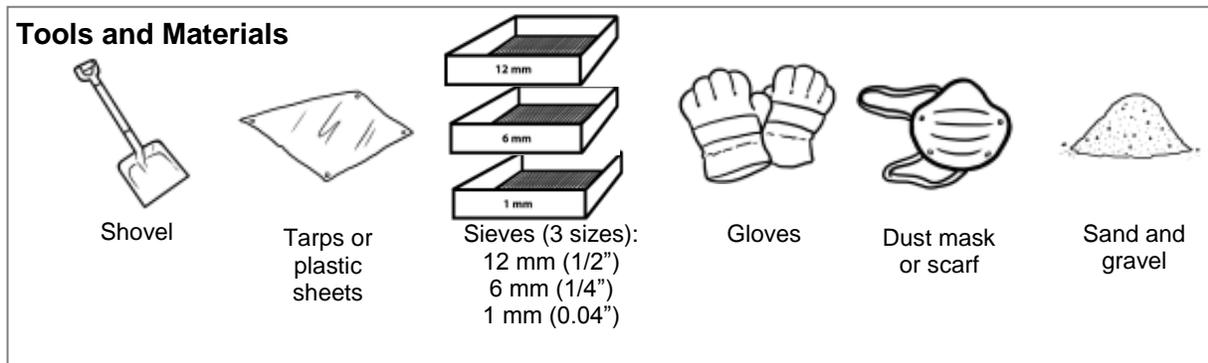


## Stage C: Sieve the Sand and Gravel

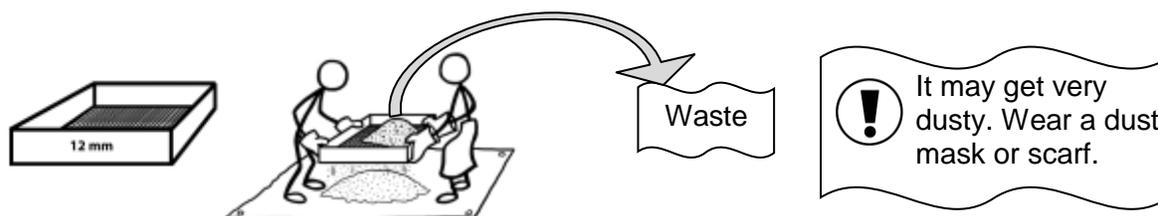


## Stage C: Sieve the Sand and Gravel

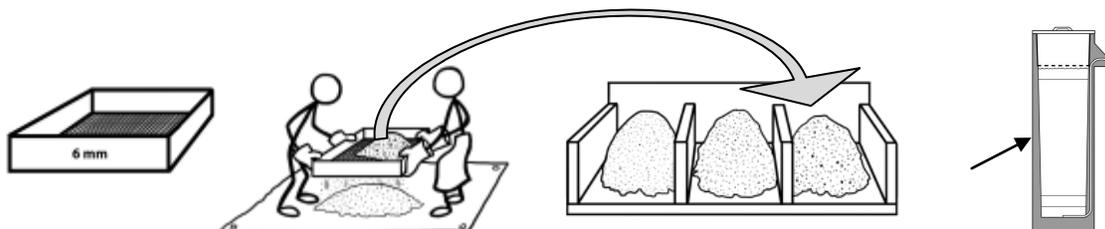
### 1. Concrete sand and gravel (for making the container)



- Put the sand and gravel through the 12 mm (1/2") sieve. **Throw away any rocks that stay on top of the 12 mm sieve**—they are too big to use in the biosand filter.

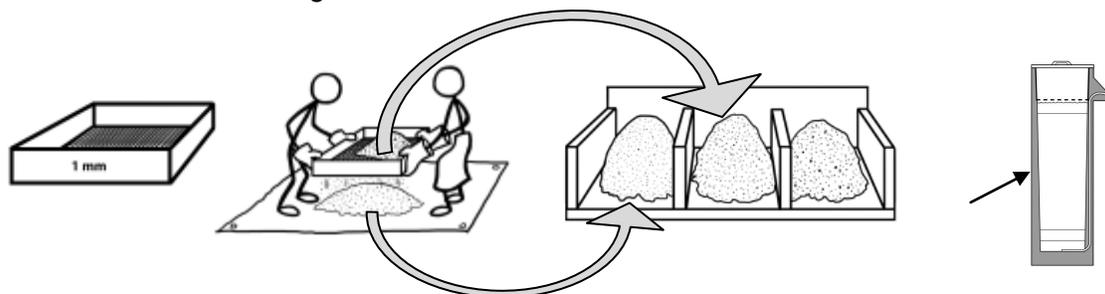


- Pick up all the material that went through the 12 mm sieve. Put it through the 6 mm (1/4") sieve. **Store all the gravel that stays on top of the 6 mm sieve in the 6-12 mm gravel storage pile.** This pile is used for 2 things: large gravel when you make the concrete, and drainage gravel that goes inside the filter.



- Pick up all the material that went through the 6 mm sieve. Put it through the 1 mm (0.04") sieve. **Store all the gravel that stays on top of the 1 mm sieve in the 1-6 mm gravel storage pile.** Use this small gravel for making concrete.

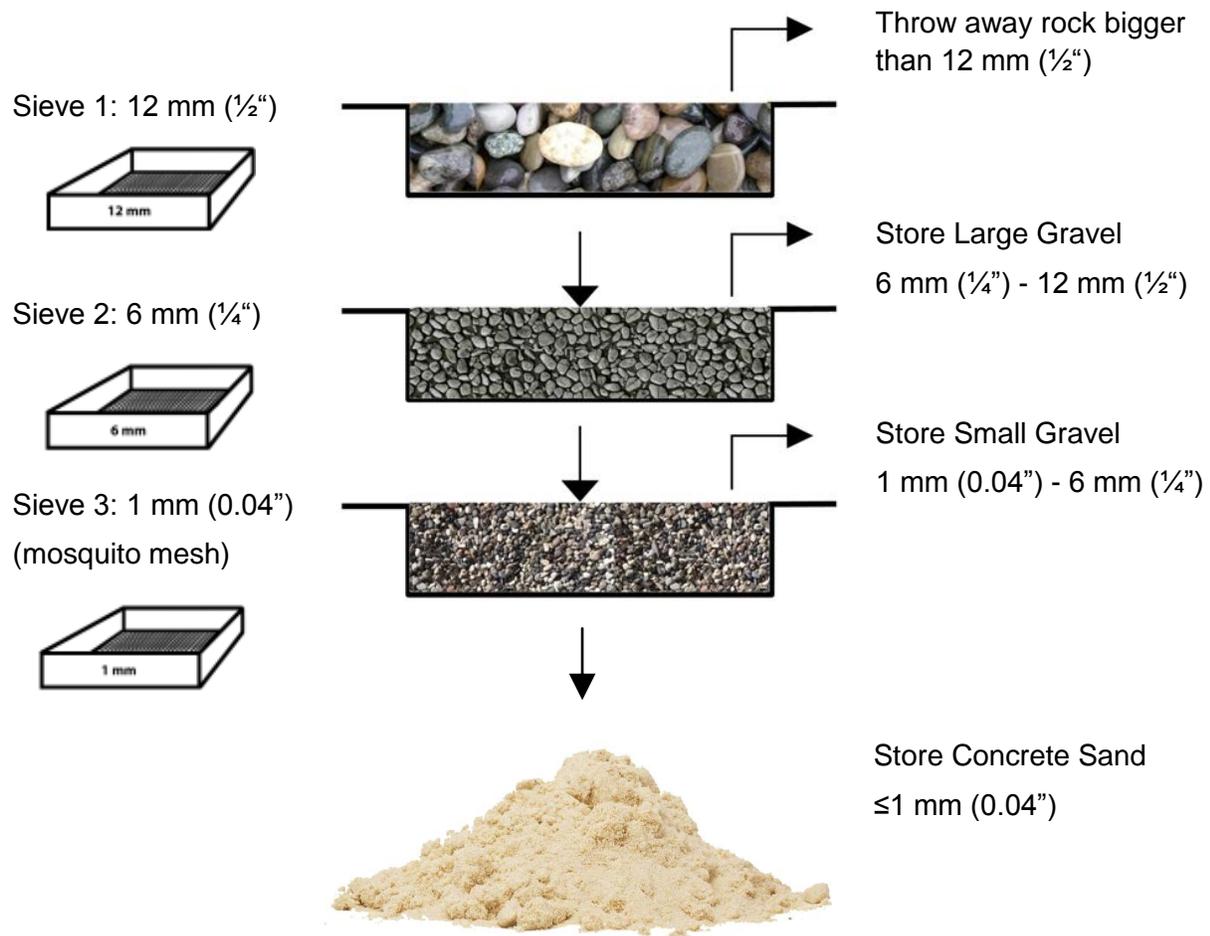
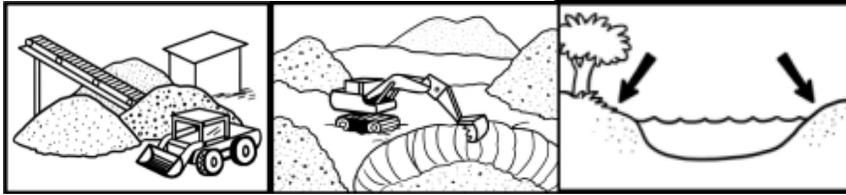
- Store all the sand that fell through the 1 mm sieve in the <1 mm sand storage pile.** Use this sand for making concrete.



## Stage C: Sieve the Sand and Gravel

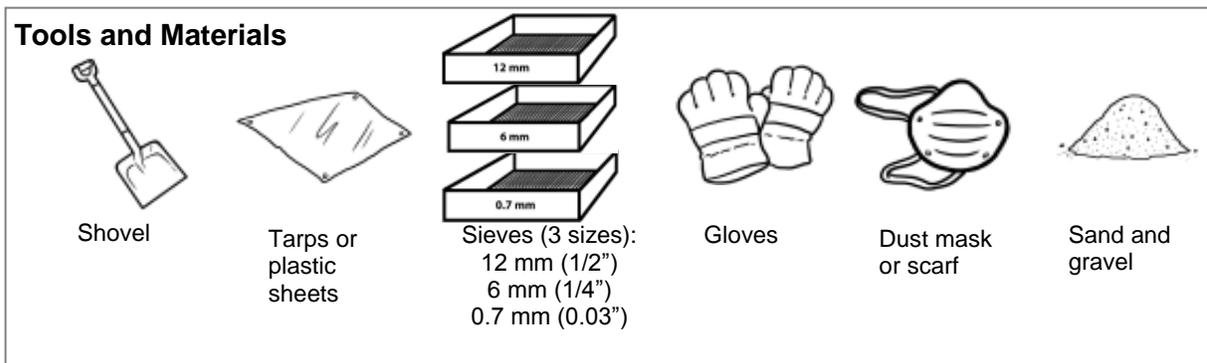
### 1. Concrete sand and gravel (for making the container) –Continued–

Recommended Sources:

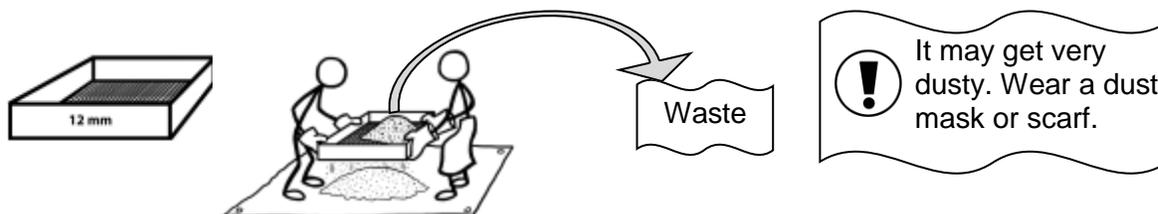


## Stage C: Sieve the Sand and Gravel

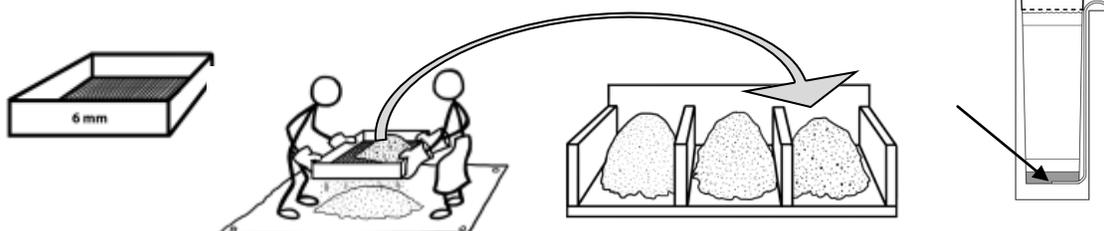
### 2. Filtration sand and gravel (for inside the filter)



- Put the sand and gravel through the 12 mm (1/2") sieve. **Throw away any rocks that stay on top of the 12 mm sieve**—they are too big to use in the biosand filter.

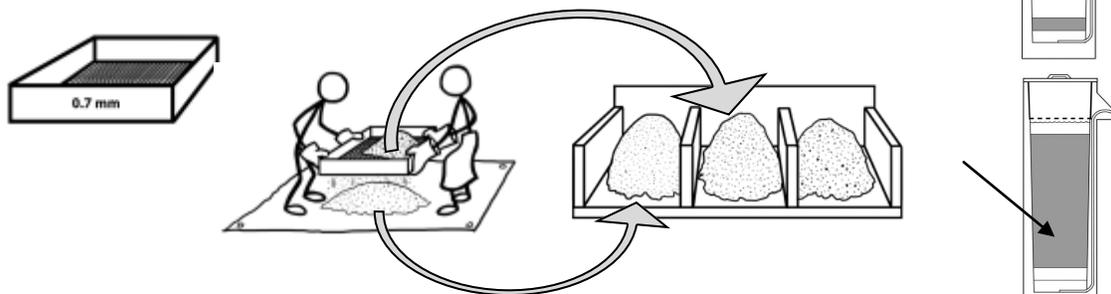


- Pick up all the material that went through the 12 mm sieve. Put it through the 6 mm (1/4") sieve. **Store all the gravel that stays on top of the 6 mm sieve in the 6-12mm gravel storage pile.** This pile is used for 2 things: large gravel when you make the concrete, and drainage gravel that goes inside the filter.



- Pick up all the material that went through the 6 mm sieve. Put it through the 0.7 mm (0.03") sieve. **Store all the gravel that stays on top of the 0.7 mm sieve in the 0.7-6mm gravel storage pile.** This is the separation gravel for inside the filter.

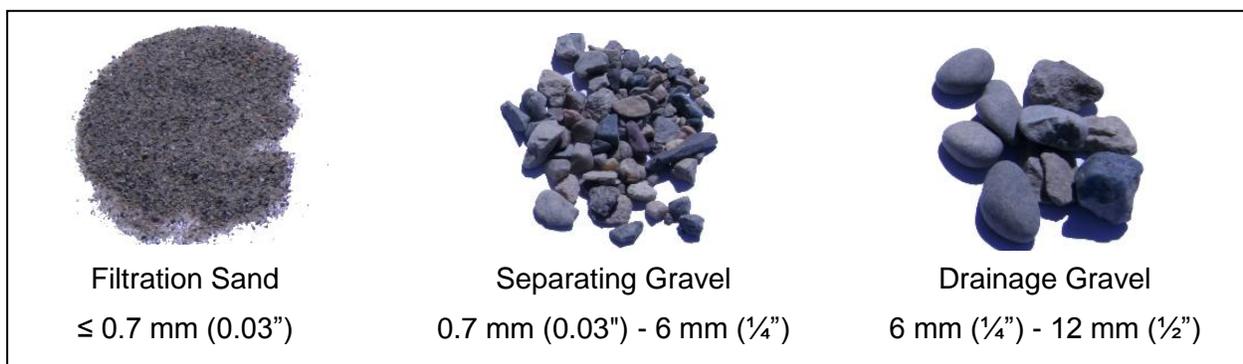
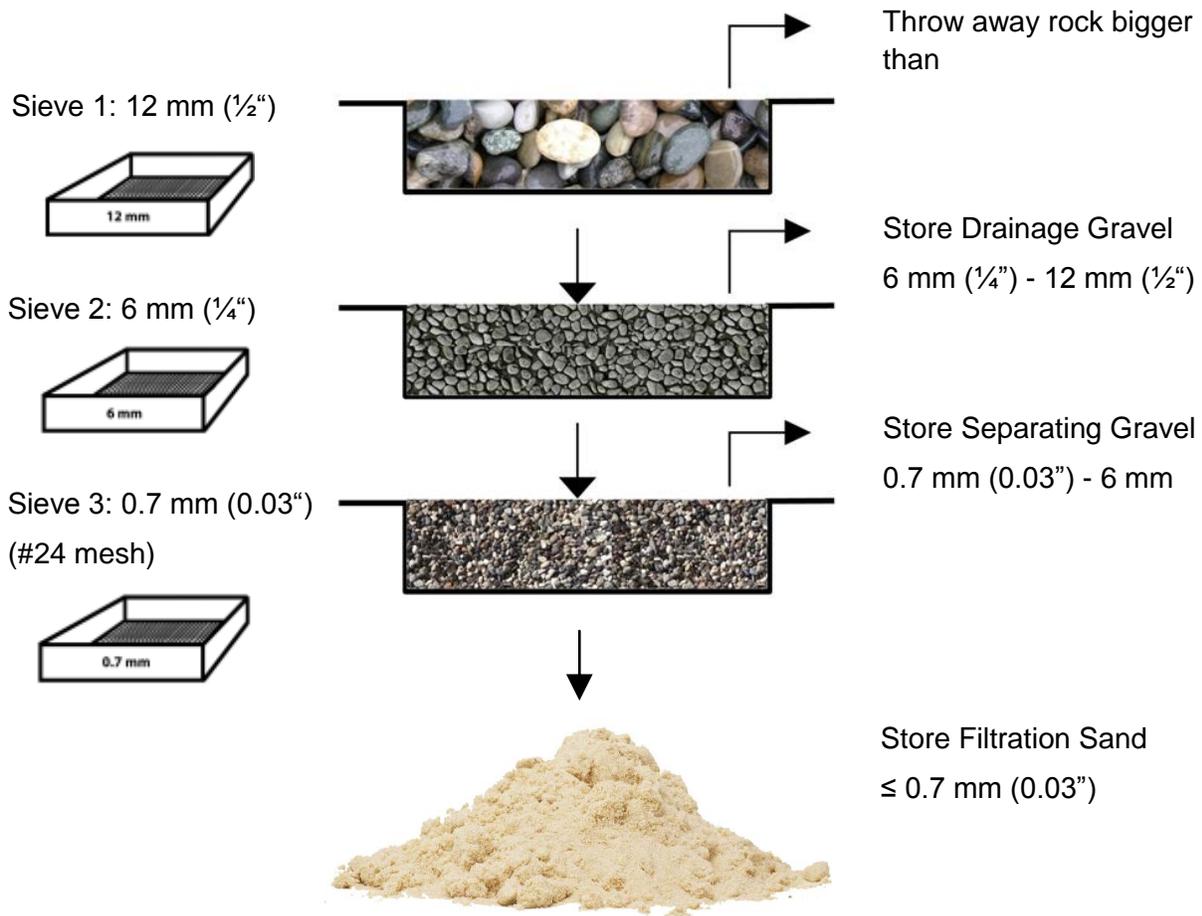
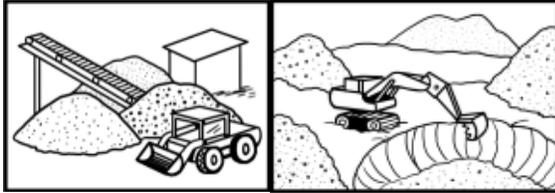
- Store all the sand that fell through the 0.7 mm sieve in the <0.7 mm sand storage pile.** This is the filtration sand for inside the filter.



## Stage C: Sieve the Sand and Gravel

### 2. Filtration sand and gravel (for inside the filter) –Continued–

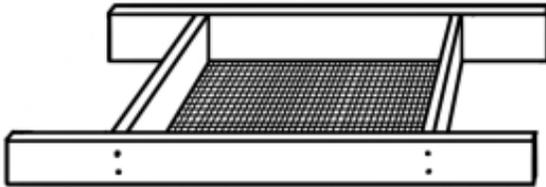
Recommended Sources:



## Stage C: Sieve the Sand and Gravel

### 3. Sieve options

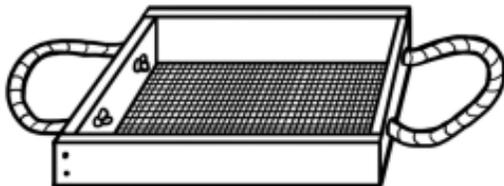
You can make good sieves in a few different ways. These are some examples of different types of sieves:



Requires 2 people for sieving.



Requires 1 person for sieving.

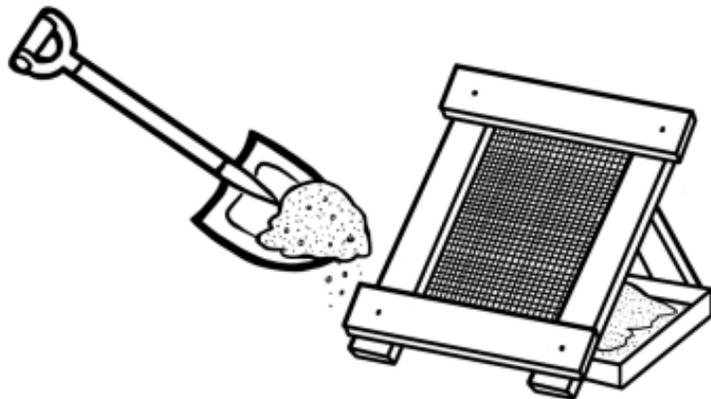


Requires 2 people for sieving.

Requires 1 person for sieving.



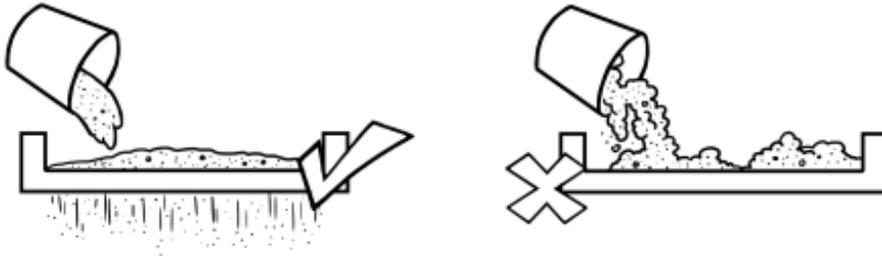
With this method, it is difficult to keep the sieved sand separate from the unsieved sand. You must be very careful. Collect the sieved sand in a box. Be careful when lifting the sieve up so no unsieved sand falls into the box.



## Stage C: Sieve the Sand and Gravel

### 4. Tips for sieving the sand and gravel

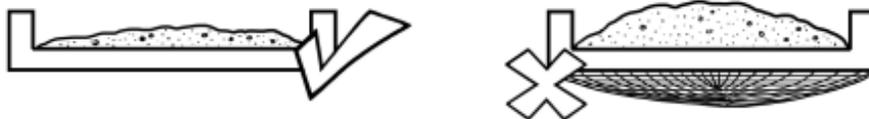
- Dry sand completely before sieving. Wet sand will not go through the sieve.



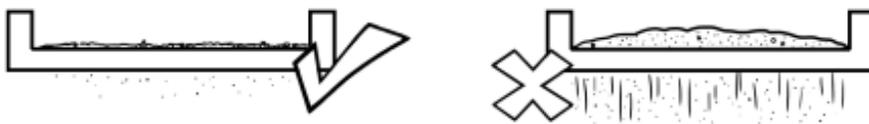
- The sand must be clean. Use sand with no pieces of grass, leaves, sticks or other material in it.



- Don't pile too much sand on the sieve. It will break the sieve.



- Keep sieving until very little or no sand is falling through the sieve. If there is still a lot of sand falling, keep sieving.



- Repair sieves when they break. The wires in the mesh should be evenly spaced and the holes all the same size. Don't use broken sieves.



## Stage C: Sieve the Sand and Gravel

### 5. Store the sieved sand and gravel

- Store the piles of sieved sand and gravel where they will stay clean and dry.
- Keep the piles separate. Be careful that no sand gets into the gravel piles, and no gravel gets into the sand piles. The filter may not work well if the materials get mixed.

Concrete Sand and Gravel

You need piles of material that will go into the concrete:

- Sand (<1 mm) (<0.04")
- Small gravel (1-6 mm) (0.04-1/4")
- Large gravel (6-12 mm) (1/4-1/2")

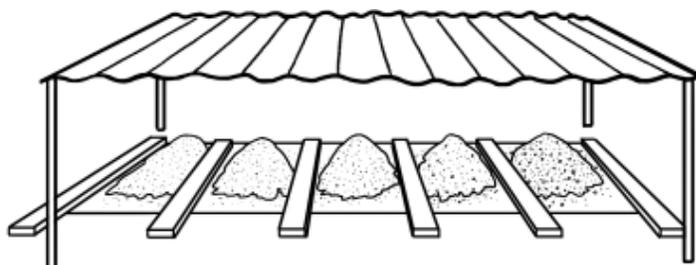
Filtration Sand and Gravel

You need piles of material that will go inside the filter:

- Sand (<0.7 mm) (<0.03")
- Separating gravel (0.7-6 mm) (0.03-1/4")
- Drainage gravel (6-12 mm) (1/4-1/2")

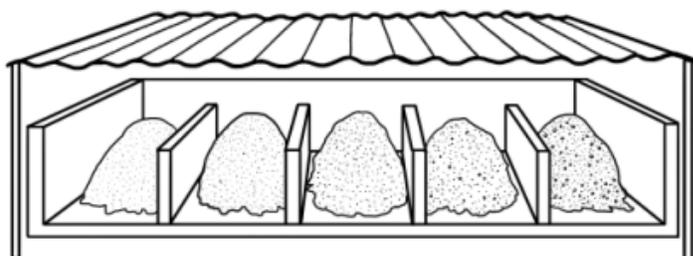


This gravel is the same size — it can all go in 1 pile.



Simple storage area: Piles of sand and gravel are separated by pieces of wood. The ground is covered by a tarp or plastic sheet.

It is easy for sand and gravel to get mixed, so be very careful.



Improved storage area: Piles of sand and gravel are separated by tall concrete walls. Floor is concrete.

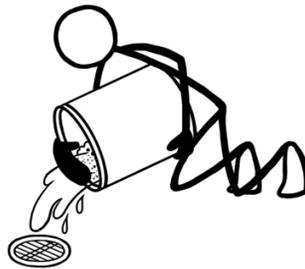
This storage area helps to keep the piles separated.

- You don't have to store all the sand and gravel piles in the same location. You can store the concrete sand and gravel near the filter pouring area, and the filtration sand and gravel near the area for washing sand and gravel.



Fill out the monitoring form for Sand and Gravel Preparation (Appendix 1)

## Stage D: Wash the Filtration Sand and Gravel



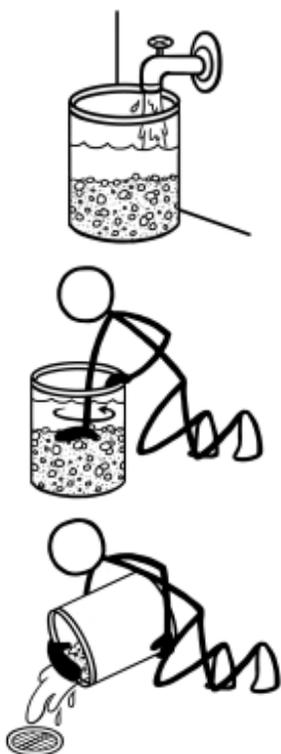
## Stage D: Wash the Filtration Sand and Gravel

**Tools and Materials**



Buckets      Water and drain      Rubber gloves (optional)      Clear jar with lid      Filtration sand (<0.7 mm)      Separating gravel (0.7-6 mm)      Drainage gravel (6-12 mm)

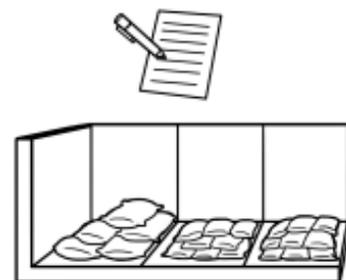
### 1. Wash the separation and drainage gravel (for inside the filter)



1. Put some sieved separation gravel or drainage gravel in a bucket.
  2. Fill the bucket half full with clear water.
  3. Swirl the gravel around in the water using your hand or a clean stick or spoon.
  4. Dump the water out of the bucket. Hold back the gravel with your hand so it doesn't fall out of the bucket.
- Pour the water down a drain or into a settling tank. If you use a settling tank, you can reuse the water once the dirt has settled to the bottom.
5. Repeat steps 2, 3 and 4 until the gravel is completely clean and the water you dump out is clear.



**!** Wash gravel until it is completely clean.



6. Fill out the monitoring form for Sand and Gravel Preparation (Appendix 1).
7. Store cleaned gravel in a dry, clean place. Or dry it and then put it in bags ready to take for installation. For one filter, you will need a bag with about 3 L of washed drainage gravel (or about 2.7 quarts), and another bag with about 3 1/4 L of separation gravel (or about 3 quarts).

## Stage D: Wash the Filtration Sand and Gravel

### 2. Wash the filtration sand (for inside the filter)



1. Put some sieved filtration sand in a bucket. This is sand that has gone through the 0.7 mm (0.03") screen.

2. Fill the bucket half full with clear water.



3. Swirl the sand around in the water using your hand or a clean stick or spoon.



4. Dump the water out of the bucket. Hold back the sand with your hand so it doesn't fall out of the bucket.

Pour the water down a drain or into a settling tank. If you use a settling tank, you can reuse the water once the dirt has settled to the bottom.

5. Repeat steps 2, 3 and 4 a few times. Count how many times you wash the sand.



The water you dump out of the bucket should still be a little dirty when you finish washing the sand.



**DO NOT** wash the sand until it is completely clean!



#### HOW DO I KNOW IF THE SAND IS WASHED ENOUGH?

1. Do a jar test.
2. Install a filter and check the flow rate.



When you are more experienced at washing sand, you will be able to tell quickly if the sand has been washed enough. But every load of sand you buy will be different. Always check the washed sand by doing jar tests and a trial installation.

## Stage D: Wash the Filtration Sand and Gravel

### 2. Wash the filtration sand (for inside the filter) –Continued

#### Check the sand: Do a jar test

After you have washed the sand 3 or 4 times, do a jar test. This is done to see if it is good or if you need to wash it more.



1. Put a little sand in the bottom of a clear jar.



2. Fill the jar with water. Put on the lid.



3. Shake the jar.



4. Stop shaking the jar. Wait 4 seconds.

5. After 4 seconds, look into the side of the jar.

If you can't see the top of the sand, it is too dirty. Keep washing the sand. Do another jar test after 1 or 2 more washes.



If you can see the top of the sand but not clearly, it is good.

Wash the rest of the sand the same number of times.



If the water is clear or almost clear and you can see the top of the sand very easily, the sand is too clean. It has been washed too much. Throw the sand away.

Start again, and wash the new sand fewer times before doing a jar test.



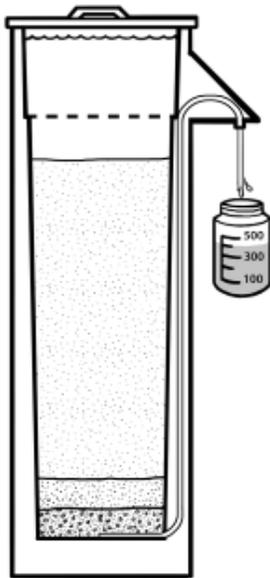
6. Fill out the monitoring form for Sand and Gravel Preparation (Appendix 1).

## Stage D: Wash the Filtration Sand and Gravel

### 2. Wash the filtration sand (for inside the filter) –Continued

#### Check the sand: Install a test filter and check the flow rate

To make sure the sand will work well in the filters, install 1 filter and check the flow rate.



1. Install one filter with gravel and sand. (See Stage H: Install the Filter). This test is usually done at the filter construction site.
2. Put a diffuser into the filter. Fill the filter with water.
3. Catch the filtered water in a container with marked measurements on it.
4. You should get 400 mL or less in 1 minute.

Or, if you are filling a 1 litre bottle, it should take about 2 minutes and 30 seconds (or longer) to fill the bottle.

5. Check the flow rate against the boxes below. Change the number of times you wash the sand if you have to.

### Too Fast! Wash Less

If the flow rate is over 450 mL per minute, the sand has been washed too much. Do not use this sand inside the filters. Try washing the sand less.

### 400 mL/min Good

If the flow rate is about 400 mL per minute, the sand is good. Keep washing this batch of sand the same number of times. You can use this sand inside filters. 400 mL is the same as about 13.5 fluid oz (US).

### Too Slow! Wash More

If the flow rate is less than 300 mL per minute, it may be too slow for users. The filter will still be good for treating water, but people may not use it because it is too slow. Try washing the sand a bit more.



6. Fill out the monitoring form for Trial Installation (Appendix 1).

Every load of sand you buy will be different. Check every batch of sand by washing a filter's worth of sand, installing 1 filter and testing the flow rate. This is an important test to make sure the filters will work well after you install them in the field.

*\*Note: If you are using older molds (Version 8 or 9), the flow rate should be 600 mL or less per minute.*

## Stage D: Wash the Filtration Sand and Gravel

---

### 3. Store the filtration sand and gravel

#### Storing Washed Sand and Gravel

Store washed sand and gravel in a dry, clean place.

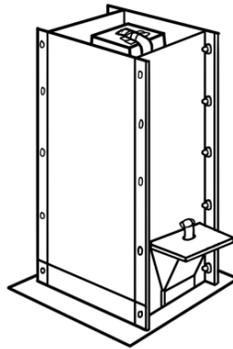


You can also store the washed sand and gravel in bags ready to take for installation. When you go to install filters, you will need to take 1 bag of sand, 1 bag of separation gravel and 1 bag of drainage gravel for each filter that you are going to install.

- Washed Sand: 30 L per bag (27 quarts)
- Washed Separation Gravel (0.7-6 mm): 3 1/4 L per bag (2.7 quarts)
- Washed Drainage Gravel (6-12 mm): 3 L per bag (3 quarts)

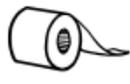


## Stage E: Make the Concrete Container

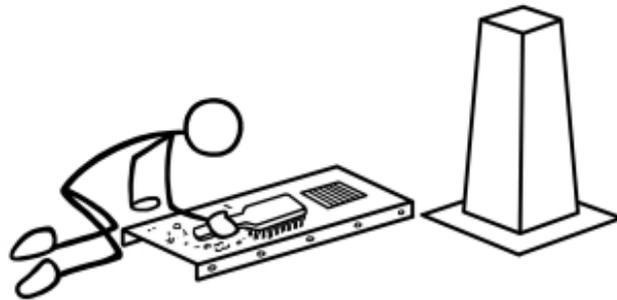


## Stage E: Make the Concrete Container

### 1. Prepare the mold

Tools and Materials					
					
Wire brush, sand paper or steel wool	Wrench (9/16\" or 15 mm)	Level	Cooking oil, butter, margarine or lard	Tape	Outlet tube (105 cm or 41\" long) Inner diameter: 6 mm (1/4\" Outer diameter: 9 mm (3/8\"
					
	Shoes	Paint brush or cloth			

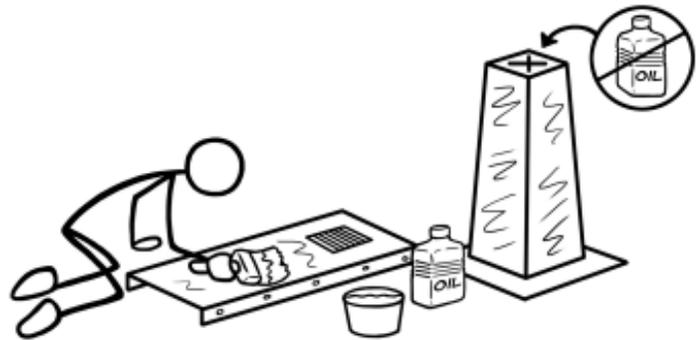
1. Scrub the steel mold to remove any old concrete. Use steel wool, a wire brush, or sand paper for metal.



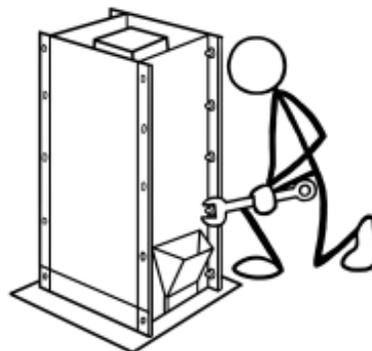
2. Paint all the inside walls of the mold with food oil, lard, butter or margarine. Use only edible oils, NOT motor oil.



Do NOT oil the top of the inside mold!  
If you do, the tubing will not stick.



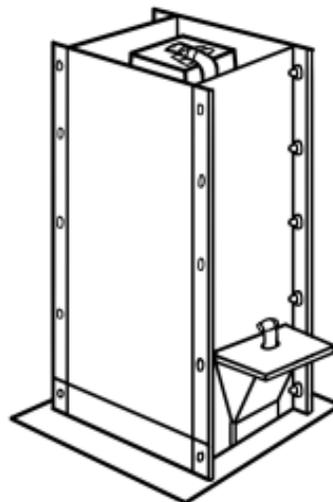
3. Put the mold together up-side-down. Tighten bolts.



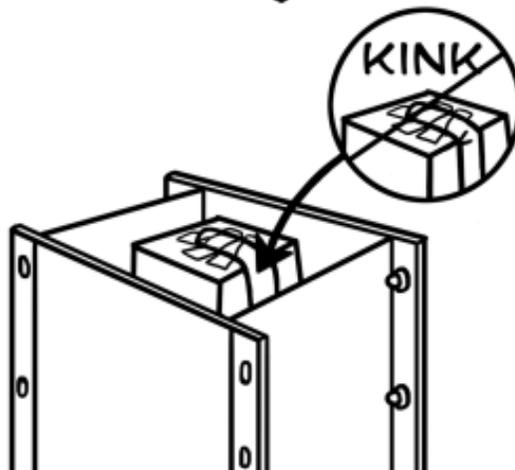
## Stage E: Make the Concrete Container

### 1. Prepare the mold –Continued

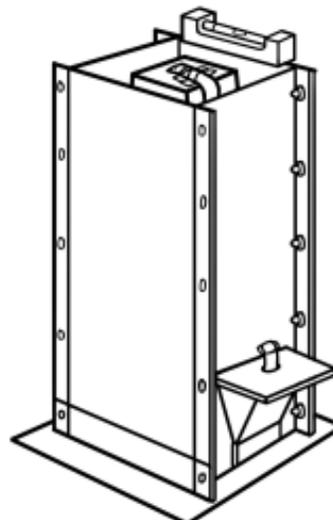
4. Cut a piece of tubing 105 cm long (41 inches).
5. Tape the tubing onto the top of the inside mold.
6. Put some tape over the end of the tube so it does not get plugged with concrete.
7. Now oil the top of the inside mold.
8. Put on the nose plate. Pull the tubing through the nose plate.



Make sure the tubing does not “kink” or pinch when you pull it through the nose plate!

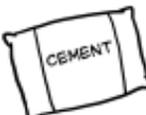


9. Plug end of the outlet tube with cloth or cover it with tape, to make sure it does not get plugged with concrete.
10. Make sure the mold is level.



## Stage E: Make the Concrete Container

### 2. Pour the filter

Tools and Materials						
						
Trowel	Metal or wood bar	Shovel	Rubber or wood mallet	Cement	Construction sand (<1 mm)	Small gravel (1-6 mm)
						
Dust mask or scarf	Gloves	Shoes	Buckets for measuring	Water (7-10 L / 2.5 gallons)	Tarp or plastic sheet	Large gravel (6-12 mm)



1. Measure the cement, sand and gravel into a pile using a bucket. You need to know how much each bucket holds. Do not use a shovel to measure, because you do not know how much each shovel-full holds.



For 1 filter, you will need:

- 12 L of Cement
- 24 L of Sand
- 12 L of 1-6mm Gravel
- 12 L of 6-12mm Gravel



- Use equal amounts of cement, small gravel and large gravel
- Use twice as much sand
- 12 L is about equal to 11 dry quarts



2. Mix the dry materials very well.



3. Add the 7-10L of water slowly while mixing. Mix it well.



The concrete should look quite dry.

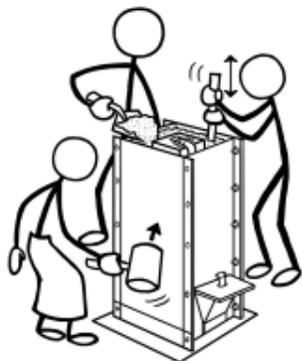


4. Test the concrete: Stick a shovel into the pile several times to make ridges.

- If the ridges are easy to see, it is good to use.
- If there are no ridges and the concrete just crumbles, it is too dry. Add more water.
- If the ridges disappear, it is too wet. Add more cement, sand, small gravel, and large gravel. Remember to add twice as much sand as gravel.

## Stage E: Make the Concrete Container

### 2. Pour the filter –Continued



- Fill the mold slowly with concrete. Use a long, thin piece of wood or a piece of metal rebar to push the concrete down.

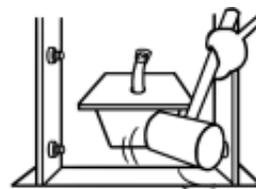
Hit the mold many times with the rubber or wood mallet. Start hitting at the bottom of the mold and then move upwards to the top of the mold. This gets air bubbles out. Keep hitting the mold from the bottom to the top as you add more concrete.



Be careful NOT to hit the outlet tube inside the mold!



Hit the nose many times to make sure it fills with concrete before the level of the concrete goes above the nose. Water should come out around the nose plate.

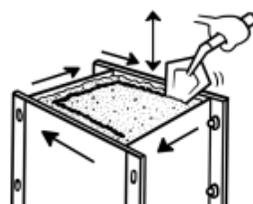


- When the mold is full, stick a trowel into the concrete all around the top edges of the mold. This will help stop leaks in the filter.



Add a shovel full of concrete on top, making a heap of concrete.

Wait 30-45 minutes. Less time if the air temperature is high.



- Go back to the mold after 30-45 minutes. Stick a trowel into the concrete again, all around the edges of the mold.

Make the top of the concrete flat. This will be the bottom of the filter, so it should be flat and level



- Cover the top of the mold with a wet cloth or damp sand. Put a plastic sheet or tarp over the mold.

Let the filter set (rest) for up to 24 hours. Let it set for less time if the air temperature is high. Do not move it.

## Stage E: Make the Concrete Container

### 3. Remove the filter from the mold

#### Tools and Materials



Wrench (9/16" or 15 mm)



Rubber or wood mallet



4 Wood blocks



Washing brush



Soap



Wrench (1 1/2", about 38 mm)



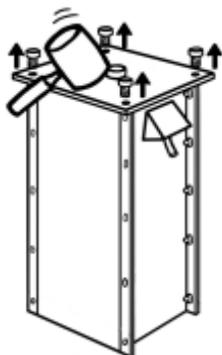
Tire or bag of grain or rice



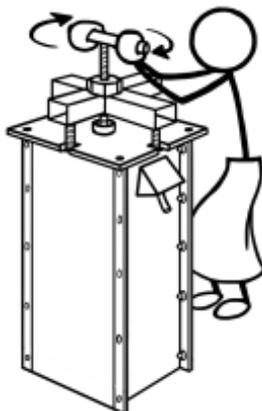
Shoes



1. After the filter has set (rested) for up to 24 hours, remove the nose plate. Remove the tape covering the end of the outlet tube.
2. Turn the mold over. Use a tire or sack of grain to help you turn it over. Ensure that the filter is in a spot where it can stay for 7 days to cure. Once it has been removed from the mold it is too fragile to move.



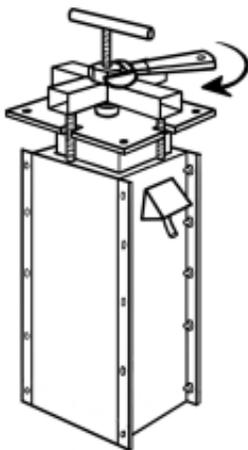
3. Remove the bolts on the TOP of the mold. (Do not loosen the bolts on the sides yet.)  
Hit the top of the mold with a mallet to loosen it from the concrete.



4. Put the extractor on top of the mold.  
Tighten the centre bolt (turn it clockwise) until it goes far into the nut on the mold.

## Stage E: Make the Concrete Container

### 3. Remove the filter from the mold –Continued



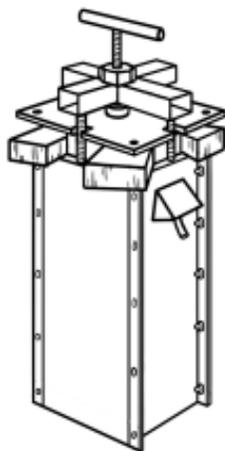
5. Attach a wrench to the nut on top of the extractor. Tighten the nut (turn it clockwise). Turn the nut until the inside mold lifts up.



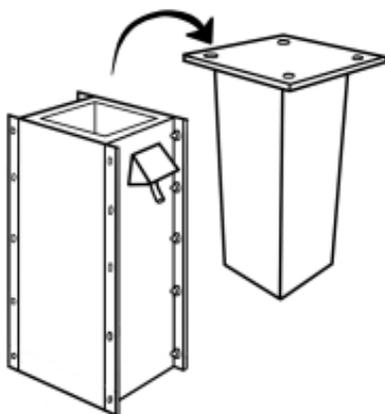
If the mold gets stuck or starts to bend,  
**STOP!**

Check that all the top bolts have been removed. Hit the mold with a mallet. If the inside mold is still stuck, remove the outside mold. Break the concrete off the inside mold.

Do not damage or break the mold for 1 filter!



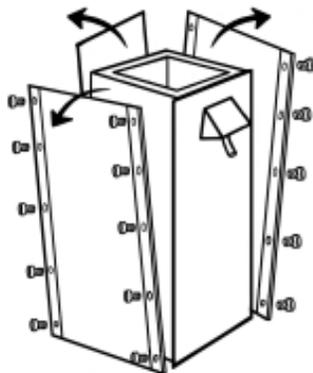
6. Put pieces of wood between the inside mold and outside mold to hold up the inside mold.
7. Remove the extractor.



8. Lift out the inside mold. Be careful not to break the walls of the concrete filter—they are still very weak.
9. Reach inside to the bottom of the filter and remove the tape covering the outlet tube. If you can't see the tape, it may be stuck to the top of the inside mold.

## Stage E: Make the Concrete Container

### 3. Remove the filter from the mold –Continued



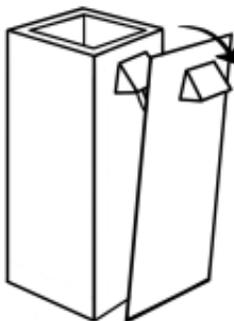
10. Remove all the side bolts as you remove the side panels of the mold.



If the mold is stuck or starts to bend, **STOP!**

Check that all the side bolts have been removed. Hit the mold with a mallet. If the mold is still stuck, remove the other pieces of the mold and then smash the concrete off the stuck piece of mold.

Do not damage the mold for 1 filter!



11. Remove the front (nose) panel of the steel mold.



If the front panel will not come off, try hitting it gently with a rubber or wood mallet. Or try using small metal crow-bars to pry it off.



12. Scrub any concrete off the mold. If the mold will be in storage for awhile, oil it so it does not rust. Do not oil the top of the inside mold.

Put the mold away in a safe, dry place.

13. Check both ends of the outlet tube. Make sure the tube is not blocked with concrete.



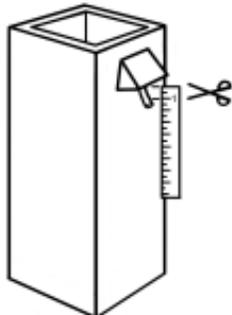
Be careful not to break the walls of the filter. Do not move the filter for 7 days. The concrete is still very weak!

## Stage E: Make the Concrete Container

### 4. Finish the concrete container



1. Write a filter number on the filter. Start a Filter Production monitoring form for the filter (Appendix 1).

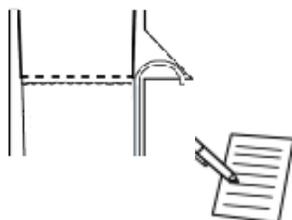


2. Check the outlet tube. It should be about 1.5 to 2 cm (9/16" to 13/16") long. If it is too long, cut it to the right length.



3. Fill the filter with water. Measure the flow rate—it should be about **1 litre per minute** (about 13.5 fluid oz US per minute).

Fill out the monitoring form for Filter Production (Appendix 1).



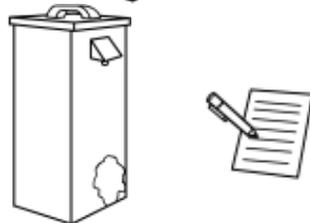
4. Once the water stops flowing, look at the water level inside the filter. Make sure it is below where the diffuser will be. If not, try to see if there is something blocking the outlet tube.

Fill out the monitoring form for Filter Production (Appendix 1).



5. Check the filter for cracks and leaks.

If there are leaks, chip out the crack with a hammer and chisel. Make a paste with cement and water. Put the paste on the crack inside and outside the filter. Make it smooth. Be very careful not to break the walls of the filter as the concrete is still weak.

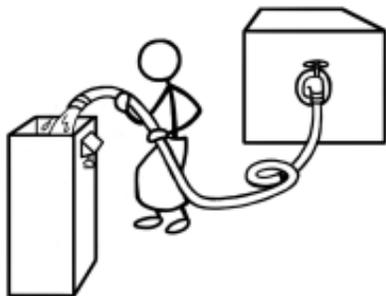


Fill out the monitoring form for Filter Production (Appendix 1).

Wait for the paste to dry before moving to the next steps.

## Stage E: Make the Concrete Container

### 4. Finish the concrete container –Continued



6. Plug the outlet tube with tape, cloth or a stick.

Fill the filter to the top with water. Cover the filter with a cloth, tarp or plastic sheet.



7. **Leave the filter to cure for 7 days.** Keep it full of water. Do not move the filter for 7 days. The concrete will get stronger the longer it cures.



Letting the filter **cure** means to let it rest. As it cures, the concrete will become stronger. If you try to move it before 7 days, the concrete may break.



8. After the filter has cured for 7 days, wash it out with soap. Rinse the inside of the filter with clean water until the filter is clean and there is no soap left.

Store the clean filter with other clean filters.

Fill out the monitoring form for Filter Production (Appendix 1).



9. Make the filter look nice. Filters can be painted or tiled. (See next page.)

Store the finished filters in an area with other filters that are ready to be transported to homes for installation.



Paint a filter number somewhere on the filter so you can keep records of the filters in each home.



Fill out the monitoring form for Filter Production (Appendix 1).

## Stage E: Make the Concrete Container

### 5. Make the filter look nice

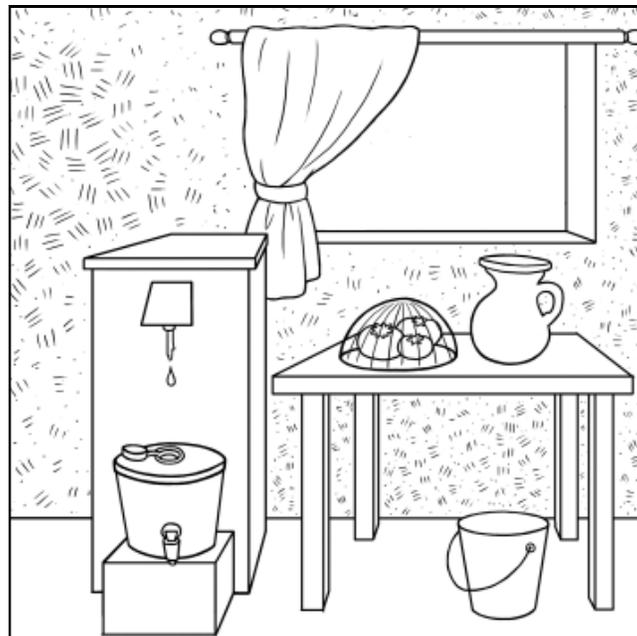
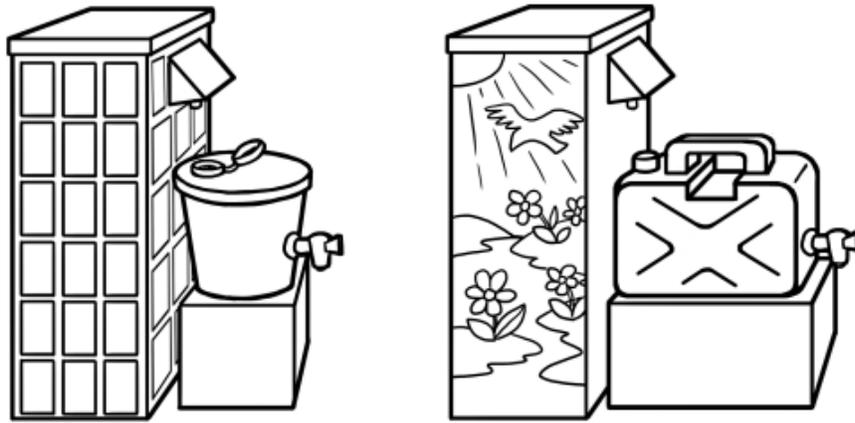
The filters will go in people's homes. You can make them look nice by painting them. You can also make them look nice other ways. You can put tiles on them or do something else that is traditional in your area.

If you paint the filters, use 1 coat of primer and 1 coat of water-based paint.



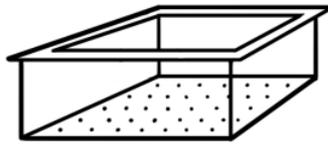
Only paint the outside of the filter.

Paint on the inside of the filter could make the water unsafe to drink.





## Stage F: Make the Diffuser



## Stage F: Make the Diffuser

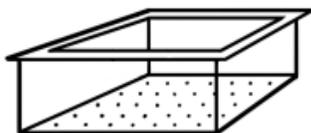
The purpose of the diffuser is to protect the top of the sand from moving around when you pour the water into the filter. This protects the biolayer. The diffuser also makes sure the water drips onto the sand evenly across the top of the sand. This way all of the sand can be used to treat the water.

You can build a diffuser out of many materials. Use a material that you can find locally and that someone local has the skills to work with.

### Example Materials:

- Sheet metal (galvanized)
- Plastic
- Corrugated plastic
- Concrete
- Acrylic sheet

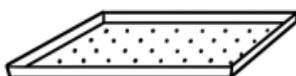
Diffuser boxes work better than diffuser plates. Diffuser boxes have to be made out of sheet metal.



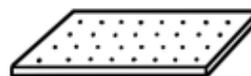
Sheet metal diffuser box



Corrugated plastic diffuser plate



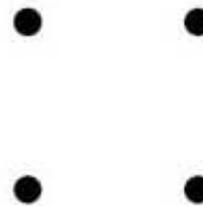
Sheet metal diffuser plate



Acrylic sheet diffuser plate

### Design:

- Holes should be 3 mm (1/8") in diameter. You can use a 3 mm (1/8") nail to make the holes.
- Holes should be spaced out by 2.5 cm (1") in a grid pattern.
- The diffuser should fit tightly inside the filter. There should not be any gaps between the diffuser and the concrete walls.
- The diffuser should be easy to remove.

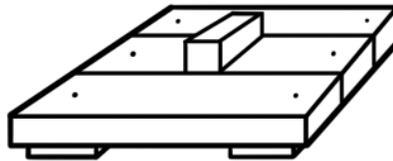


Hole size (3mm) and spacing (1")  
(actual size)



Be careful working with sharp edges, especially when using sheet metal. Use gloves.

### Stage G: Make the Lid



## Stage G: Make the Lid

The purpose of the lid is to stop anything from getting inside the filter.

You can build a lid out of many materials. Use a material that you can find locally and that someone local has the skills to work with.

### Example Materials:

- Sheet metal (galvanized)
- Simple wood
- Carved wood
- Ceramic tiles
- Concrete

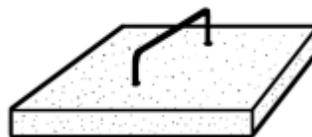
Lids will always be on the filters, inside people's homes. They should look nice.

### Design:

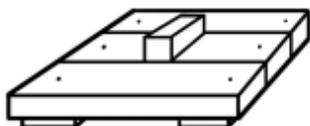
- The lid should cover the entire top of the filter.
- It should not be easily knocked off the filter.
- It should be easy to take off and put on again.
- Some lids have handles, some don't. If there is no handle, people can store items on top of the filter lid.
- On wooden lids, the handle should be attached to the lid with at least 2 nails going into the lid at different directions, so that the handle does not pull out when you lift the lid.
- Wood lids should be painted with an oil-based paint to stop mould from growing inside the lid.



Sheet metal lid



Concrete lid with metal handle



Wood lid with handle



Carved wood lid

## Stage H: Install the Filter



## Stage H: Install the Filter

---

These are the steps to install a filter:

1. Put the filter in a good location.
2. Put in the drainage gravel, separation gravel and sand.
3. Check the flow rate.
4. Flush the filter.
5. Disinfect the outlet tube.
6. Fill out the monitoring form for Filter Installation (Appendix 1).

Before you leave the home, you must teach the users how to use the filter. (See Stage I: Educate the User).

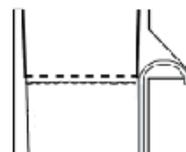
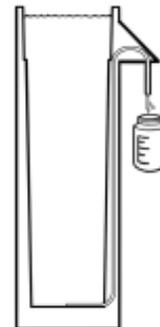
Try to install a few filters nearby each other on the same day. While you are waiting for the water to run through one filter, you can start installing the next filter.



Before you install the filter, make sure the outlet tube is not blocked. When you fill the empty filter to the top with water, the flow rate should be about **1 litre per minute**. When it stops flowing, the top of the water should be just below the diffuser.

This should have been checked when the container was made. But it is good to check it again - before you fill the filter with gravel and sand!

Also make sure the inside of the filter is clean. Check that the filter is level.



The next page has a list of things you need to take with you when you go to install filters.

## Stage H: Install the Filter

### 1. Things to take with you for an installation

You will need to take all of these things with you when you go to install a filter:



#### Putting in the sand and gravel

- Filter
- Safe storage container (if providing with filter)
- Sand (30 L or 27 quarts)
- Separation gravel (3 1/4 L or 3 quarts)
- Drainage gravel (3 L or 2.7 quarts)
- Diffuser
- Lid



- Extra sand and gravel
- Extra diffuser in case one gets broken or does not fit
- Extra lid in case one gets broken or does not fit



- Measuring tape or ruler
- Level to check if the filter is level and flat
- Wooden bar for measuring gravel depth during installation
- Shovel or trowel for putting sand and gravel in the filter
- Small buckets for measuring sand and gravel if they aren't in the correct size bags already
- Buckets for pouring and catching water
- Small bucket or cup for removing dirty water from the top of the filter (swirl and dump)



#### Checking the flow rate

- Stopwatch or timer or watch for checking flow rate
- Bottle or container for measuring flow rate



#### Disinfecting the outlet tube

- Tube that fits over outlet tube (1 m or 3' long) for disinfecting outlet tube
- Funnel
- Chlorine
- 1 L bottle



#### Educating the users and filling out monitoring form

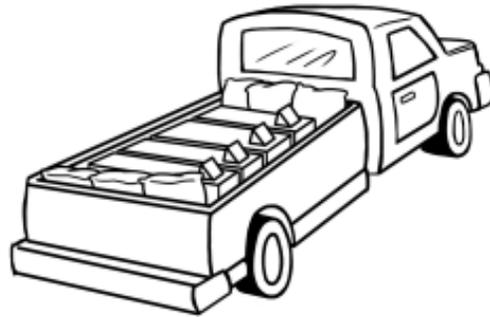
- Pen or pencil
- Monitoring forms
- Education materials and your organization's contact details to leave with the family

## Stage H: Install the Filter

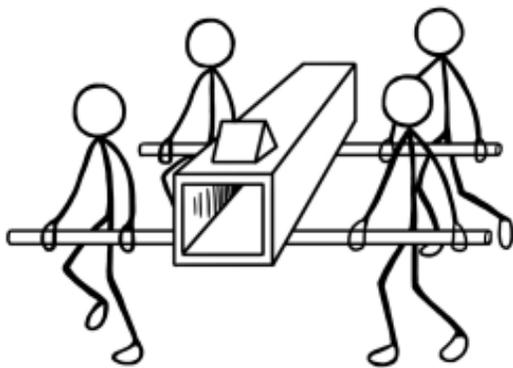
---

### 2. Transport the filter and supplies for installation

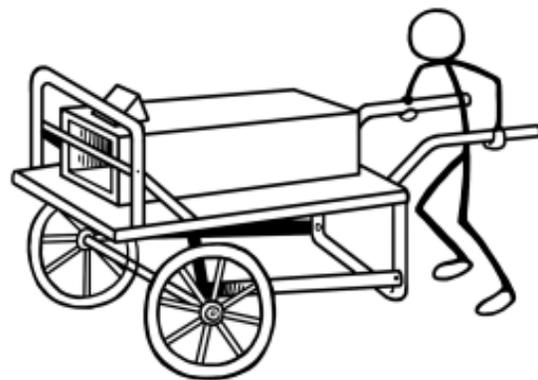
You will need a way to transport the filters to people's homes for installation. You will also need to transport the sand, gravel, and other supplies you need to install the filter.



Truck or van



Moving the filter on bars



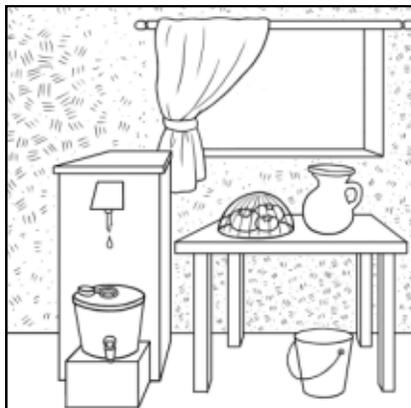
Hand cart



Cart pulled by an animal

## Stage H: Install the Filter

### 3. Position



The filter should be in a safe place. It should also be easy for the family to use.

The filter should be:

- Away from sunlight, rain, animals and children
- On flat, level ground or floor
- In or near the kitchen, where it will be easy to use and clean
- Where there is room to lift buckets and pour them into the filter

- If users are short, it is difficult to pour a bucket of water into the filter. They can use a step in front of the filter to make it easier.
- It is best to put filters inside the house. They can also be put under a roof on the side of the house.
- Filters full of sand and gravel should never be moved. They are too heavy, and moving the filter may cause it to stop working.



**Once the filter is filled with sand and gravel, it cannot be moved!**

If the user wants the filter moved later, a technician needs to come and take out all the sand and gravel. Then they can move the filter. Then the technician must re-install the filter with sand and gravel as if it was a new filter.

If the filter is moved without first taking out the sand and gravel, it may not work as well after it is moved. Sand or gravel may block the outlet tube.

### 4. Put in the sand and gravel

#### Tools and Materials



Tape measure or ruler



Level



Wood bar or leveling stick



About 3 1/4 litres or 3 quarts of washed separation gravel



About 3 litres or 2.7 quarts of washed drainage gravel



About 30 litres or 27 quarts of washed filtration sand



Water



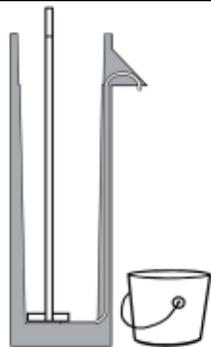
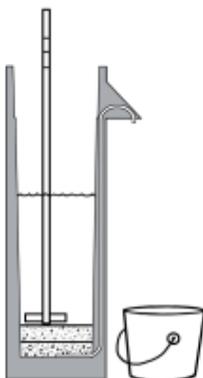
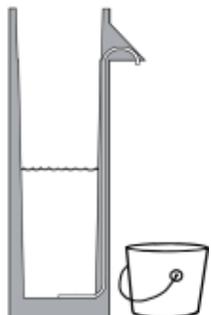
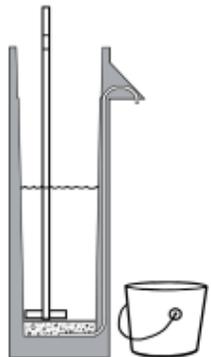
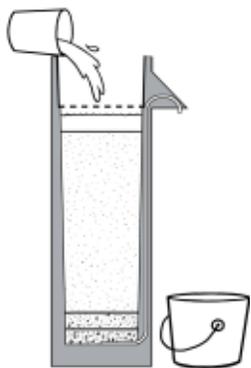
Bucket



Shoes

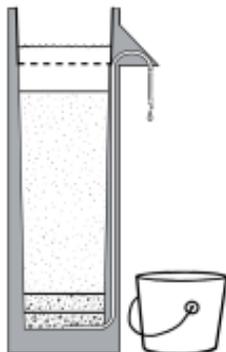
## Stage H: Install the Filter

### 4. Put in the sand and gravel –Continued

 <p>1. Put a stick into the filter, touching the bottom of the filter. Draw a line on the stick at the top of the filter.</p>	 <p>5. Draw another line on the stick 5 cm down from the second line.</p>
 <p>2. Draw another line on the stick 5 cm (2") down from the first line.</p>	 <p>6. Put separation gravel into the filter until it is 5 cm (2") deep. It should be about 3 1/4 litres of gravel. Make the top of the gravel flat and level.</p> <p>Put the stick on top of the gravel. When the bottom line is level with the top of the filter, you have added enough gravel.</p>
 <p>3. Fill the filter half full with water.</p> <p>Put a bucket under the filter outlet to catch any water that flows out.</p> <p>Having water in the filter when you put in the gravel and sand will prevent air pockets and dry spots in the sand.</p>	 <p>7. Quickly add 30 L of filtration sand. As you add the sand, the water level in the filter should always be higher than the sand.</p>
 <p>4. Put drainage gravel into the filter until it is 5 cm (2") deep. It should be about 3 litres of gravel. Make the top of the gravel flat and level.</p> <p>Put the stick on top of the gravel. When the bottom line is level with the top of the filter, you have added enough gravel.</p>	 <p>8. Put in the diffuser. Pour a bucket of water into the top of the filter.</p> <p>Let the filter run until the water stops flowing. This could take an hour or more.</p>

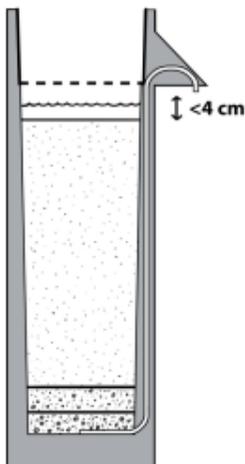
## Stage H: Install the Filter

### 4. Put in the sand and gravel –Continued



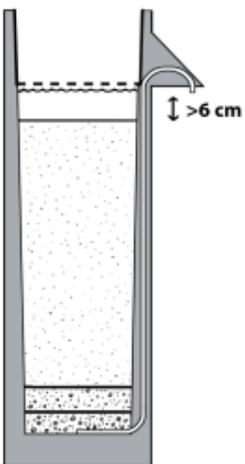
When you fill the filter, it can take more than an hour for the water to stop flowing. While you are waiting, you can go install a filter in another house nearby.

10. When the water stops flowing, check the depth of the water above the sand. The water should be between 4 and 6 cm deep (1.5 to 2.5”).



**If the standing water level is less than 4 cm (1.5”) deep,** check the outlet tube. If it is longer than 2 cm (13/16”), cut it shorter. Fill the filter with water again and measure the standing water level again.

If the water is still less than 4 cm deep, there is too much sand. Take some sand out. Make the top of the sand smooth and flat. Put the diffuser in. Pour a bucket of water into the top of the filter and let it run until the water stops flowing. Measure the standing water level again.



**If the standing water level is more than 6 cm (2.5”) deep,** there is not enough sand. Add some more sand. Make the top of the sand smooth and flat. Put the diffuser in. Pour a bucket of water into the top of the filter and let it run until the water stops flowing. This could take an hour or more. After the water stops flowing, measure the standing water level again.

## Stage H: Install the Filter

### 4. Put in the sand and gravel –Continued



11. When the water above the sand is between 4 and 6 cm deep, you have added enough sand. Now you need to clean the top of the sand so the filter does not clog.

Put your hand flat on the top of the sand, and swirl it around the surface of the sand. The water above the sand will become very dirty.



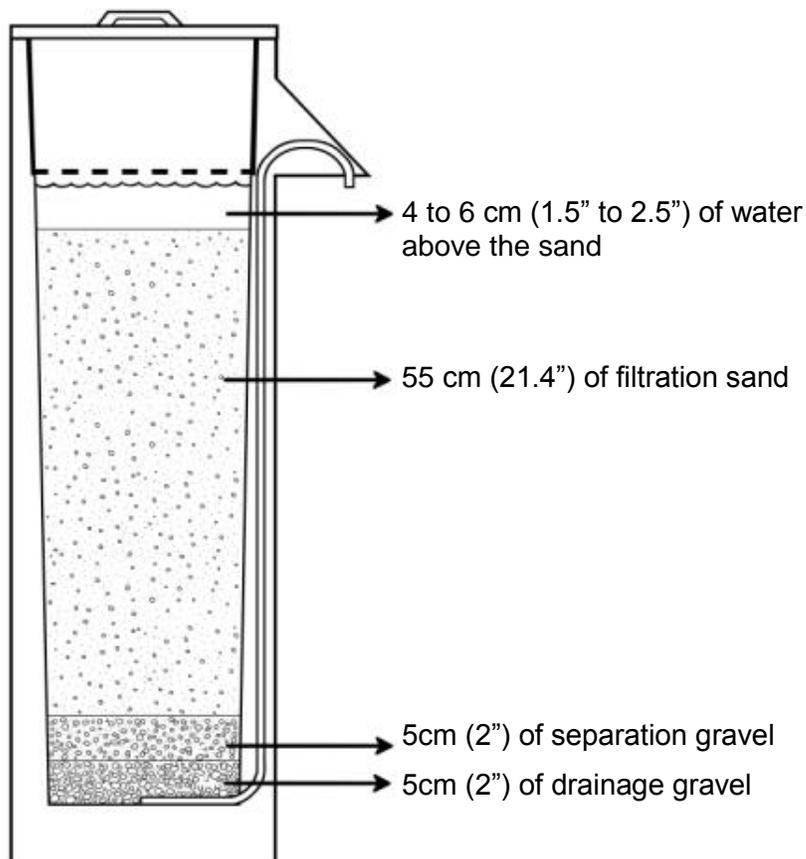
12. Remove the dirty water using a cup or small bucket. Throw this water away - dump it down a drain or into the bushes.

Repeat the “Swirl and Dump” in steps 11 and 12 until the water in the top of the filter stays clear. If you remove all the water, put the diffuser back in before pouring more water into the top of the filter. Then you can repeat the swirl and dump.



13. Fill out the monitoring form for Filter Installation (Appendix 1).

### After you install the filter, it should have these layers:



## Stage H: Install the Filter

### 5. Check the flow rate

#### Tools and Materials



Water  
(12 litres or  
3 gallons)



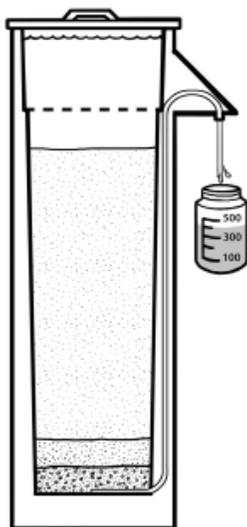
Bucket to collect  
filtered water



Measuring container or old bottle  
to measure collected water



Stopwatch or  
timer

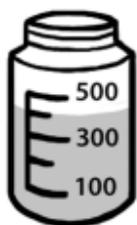


1. Fill the filter to the top with water.
2. Start the timer. Hold the measuring cup or bottle under the outlet to collect the water. Measure the flow rate.



Measure the flow rate when the filter is full.  
The flow rate will get slower as it empties.

#### Using a measuring container



If you are using a measuring container, collect water for exactly 1 minute. Then look to see how much water you collected.

**You should get 400 mL or less in 1 minute.**

If you get less than 300 mL in 1 minute, the sand was not washed enough.

If you get more than 450 mL per minute, the sand was washed too much. You need to re-install the filter with different sand.

*\*Note: The flow rate should be 400 mL or less per minute if you are using Version 10 filters. If you are using older molds (Version 8 or 9), the flow rate should be 600 mL or less per minute.*

## Stage H: Install the Filter

### 5. Check the flow rate –Continued

#### Using a 1 L bottle



If you are using a 1L bottle, time how long it takes to fill the bottle.

**It should take 2 minutes and 30 seconds or longer to fill a 1 L bottle.**

If it takes more than 3 minutes 20 seconds to fill the bottle, the sand was not washed enough.

If it takes less than 2 minutes 10 seconds, the sand was washed too much. You need to re-install the filter with different sand.

#### Using a 500 mL bottle



If you are using a 500 mL bottle, time how long it takes to fill the bottle.

**It should take 1 minute 15 seconds or longer to fill a 500 mL bottle.**

If it takes more than 1 minute 40 seconds to fill the bottle, the sand was not washed enough.

If it takes less than 1 minute 5 seconds, the sand was washed too much. You need to re-install the filter with different sand.

You can use this table to convert between mL per minute and the time it takes to fill a 1 L bottle, a 500 mL bottle, or a 20 fluid ounce bottle.

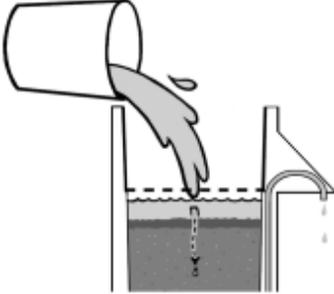
mL per minute	Time to fill 1L	Time to fill 500 mL	Time to fill 20 oz
300	3 min 20 seconds	1 min 40 seconds	2 minutes
350	2 min 50 seconds	1 min 25 seconds	1 min 40 seconds
<b>400</b>	<b>2 min 30 seconds</b>	<b>1 min 15 seconds</b>	<b>1 min 30 seconds</b>
450	2 min 10 seconds	1 min 5 seconds	1 min 20 seconds
500	2 minutes	1 minute	1 min 10 seconds
550	1 min 50 seconds	55 seconds	1 min 5 seconds
600	1 min 40 seconds	50 seconds	1 minute



4. Fill out the monitoring form for Filter Installation (Appendix 1).

## Stage H: Install the Filter

### 5. Check the flow rate –Continued



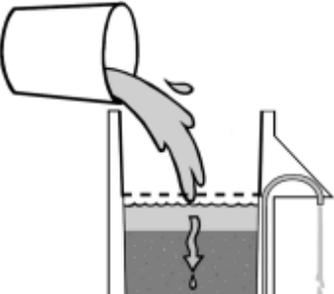
**WHAT IF THE FLOW RATE IS TOO SLOW?**

If the flow rate is less than 400 mL/minute, the filter will still work. But users may not like a slow flow rate. The flow rate will get even slower as they use the filter, because the top of the sand clogs with dirt. If the flow rate gets too slow, they may stop using the filter.

If the flow rate is too slow after you install the filter, you can try to make it faster by cleaning the top of the sand. Do a “Swirl and Dump”. Swirl the top of the sand with your hand. Then use a cup to dump out the dirty water in the top of the filter.

If the flow rate is not faster after doing 4 “Swirl and Dumps”, you must wash all the sand more. Take all the sand out of the filter. Take the sand back to to be washed again. Do another jar test. Install 1 filter and test the flow rate. Tell the people who wash the sand that it hasn’t been washed enough, so they can adjust their washing method.

Re-install the filter in the home with new gravel and sand that has been washed more. Check the flow rate again.



**WHAT IF THE FLOW RATE IS TOO FAST?**

If the flow rate is more than 400 mL/minute, the filter might not work as well. It might not remove as many pathogens from the water.

If the flow rate is higher than 450 mL/minute, you should replace the sand. Take all the sand out of the filter. Starting with new sand, wash it less. Do a jar test. Install 1 filter and test the flow rate. Tell the people who wash the sand, so they know they are washing it too much.

Re-install the filter with the new sand and gravel. Check the flow rate again.

## Stage H: Install the Filter

### 6. Flush the filter

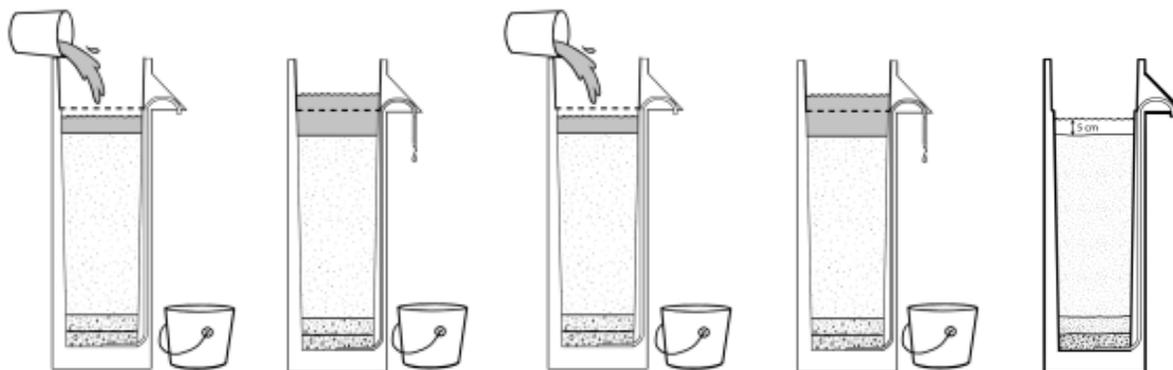
#### Tools and Materials



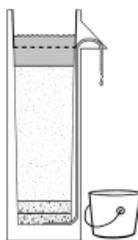
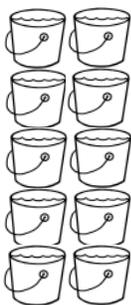
Water  
(40 to 80 litres or  
10 to 20 gallons)



Bucket to collect  
water from outlet



1. Make sure the diffuser is in the filter. Put a bucket under the outlet to catch water.  
  
Pour a bucket of clear water into the top of the filter. Use the clearest water possible.
2. Look at the water coming out of the outlet tube. It will be dirty at first. It will get clearer as more water flows through the filter.
3. When the filter stops flowing, throw the collected dirty water away—pour it down a drain or into the bushes.  
  
Pour another bucket of water into the top of the filter.
4. Continue pouring water into the filter until the water coming out of the spout is clear.  
  
It may take 40 to 80 litres (10 to 20 gallons) of water, or 3 to 7 buckets.
5. Check the standing water level. The water above the sand should be 4 to 6 cm (1.5" to 2.5") deep. The surface of the water should be below the diffuser, not touching it.



#### WHAT IF THE WATER NEVER GETS CLEAR?

If you have put more than 10 buckets of water (124 litres or 30 gallons) into the top of the filter and the water coming out of the spout still isn't clear, the gravel was not washed enough.

You must take the sand and gravel out of the filter. Wash the gravel more, until it is completely clean and there is no dirt in the water in the wash bucket. Then re-install the filter, using the clean gravel.

## Stage H: Install the Filter

### 7. Disinfect the outlet tube

#### Tools and Materials



1 L bottle filled with water



Chlorine (example: 5.25% bleach)



Hose that fits over outlet tube  
- inner diameter: 9 mm (3/8")  
- length: 1 m (3 ft)



Funnel that fits into the hose



Water (12 litres or 3 gallons)



1. Put one end of the hose over the outlet tube. Put the funnel into the other end of the hose.



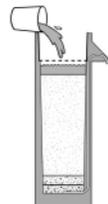
2. Mix about 1 teaspoon of chlorine into 1 L of water in a bottle.



3. Hold the funnel up higher than the top of the filter. Pour the 1 litre of chlorine-water into the funnel and let it drain into the outlet tube in the filter.

Hold the funnel up high for **2 minutes**. This lets the water sit inside the outlet tube to disinfect it.

After 2 minutes, lower the funnel into a bucket. Let all the chlorine-water drain out into the bucket.



4. Fill the filter reservoir with water. Let all the water flow out of the filter into the bucket.



5. Put some chlorine on a cloth. Wipe the outside of the outlet tube.



6. When the filter stops flowing, throw away all the water in the bucket. Dump it down a drain or in the bushes.



## Stage I: Educate the User

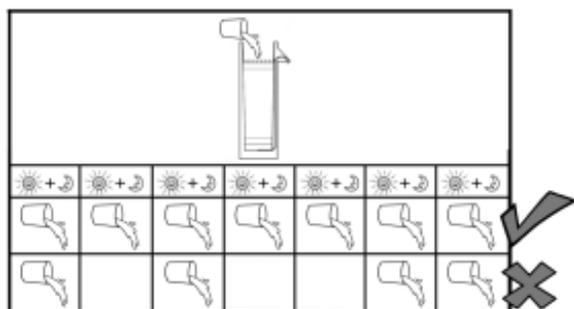


## Stage I: Educate the User

### 1. How to use the filter

It is very important that the users know how to use the filter. Someone must teach them how to use it and how to clean it at the same time the filter is installed.

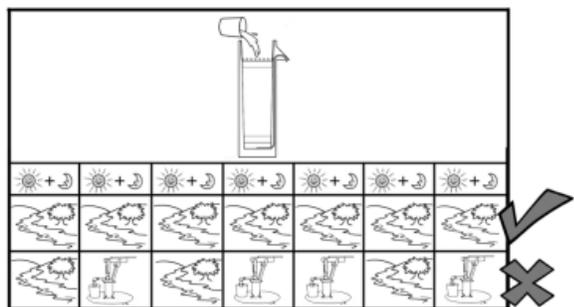
#### Using your biosand filter



1. **Use the filter every day.**

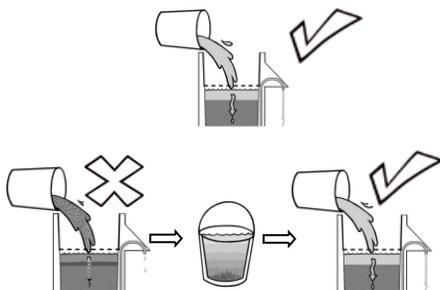
After the filter has stopped flowing, wait at least 1 hour before pouring another bucket of water in. The filter needs to rest.

Do not go more than 2 days without pouring water into the filter. If you go away for many days, ask someone else to pour water into your filter every day.



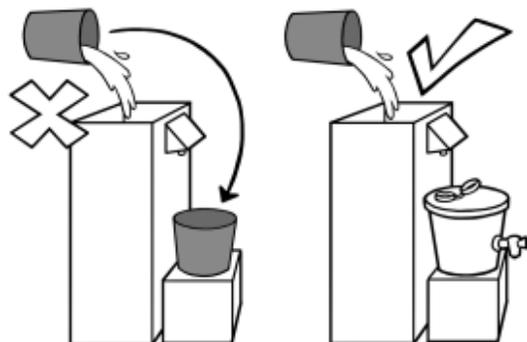
2. **Always pour water from the same source into the filter.**

If you change sources, the filter will not work as good for a few days. If you use different water sources in different seasons, it is very important to disinfect the filtered water for a few days after you change sources.



3. **Use the cleanest, clearest water possible in the filter.**

If you only have dirty, cloudy water, let it sit in a container until the dirt has settled to the bottom. Then pour the clear water into the filter.



4. **Use one container to collect water to pour into the filter, and use a different container to collect the filtered water.**

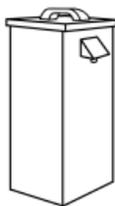
**!** Use a safe storage container to catch the filtered water.

## Stage I: Educate the User

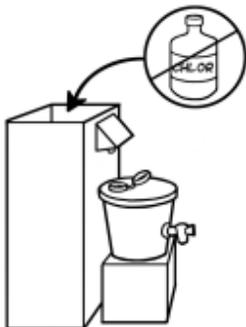
### 1. How to use the filter –Continued



5. **Always make sure the diffuser is in the filter when you pour water in.** Never pour water directly onto the sand.



6. **Always keep the lid on the filter.**



7. **Never put chlorine into the top of the filter.** Chlorine will kill the biolayer. Without the biolayer, the filter will not work as well.



8. **Disinfect the filtered water.** You can disinfect it by adding chlorine drops or chlorine tablets, using SODIS, or boiling the filtered water.

The biosand filter removes most of the dirt and pathogens. But for the best, safest water, you should also disinfect it.



9. **Keep the outlet tube open. Do not put a hose or tap on the filter outlet tube.** The filter will not work right.

10. **Use the filter only for water. Do not store food in the top of the filter.** Some people do this because it is cool in the filter. But the inside of the filter is not clean — it collects dirt and pathogens! It will make food dirty and unsafe to eat. Food may also attract insects to the filter.

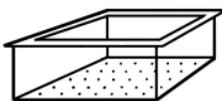
## Stage I: Educate the User

### 2. How to clean the filter

The users must know how to clean the filter. There are 2 ways they must clean the filter.

1. Wash the diffuser, lid, and the outside of the outlet tube.
2. Whenever the flow rate gets too slow, they should do a “Swirl and Dump” to make the flow rate faster again.

#### Cleaning the parts of the filter



The diffuser collects dirt and large particles that are in the water. It may get very dirty. The dirt will not harm the drinking water, since the water is filtered after it touches the diffuser. But it is a good idea to clean the diffuser. Cleaning the dirt off the diffuser will help keep the dirt from clogging the sand. It will help keep the flow rate from getting too slow.



It is also good to wash the lid. If the family stores anything on top of the lid, it should be clean. Also, it will look nicer if it is clean.

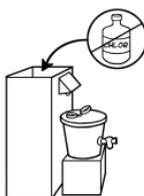


- Once a week, wash the diffuser and lid in soapy water. Then rinse them in clear water.
- You do not have to use safe, filtered water to wash the diffuser and lid. But the water should be as clean and clear as possible.
- If you don't want to put the lid into the water, you can wipe it with a clean, wet cloth.



It is important to keep the outlet tube clean. Sometimes the outside of the tube can get dirty. This may make the drinking water dirty again. This is one reason the water should be disinfected after being filtered.

- Once a week, wipe the outside of the outlet tube. Use a cloth with chlorine. Let the tube air-dry.
- If you do not have chlorine or bleach, use a wet soapy cloth. Then use a clean, wet cloth to rinse off the soap. Use filtered water to clean the outlet tube.

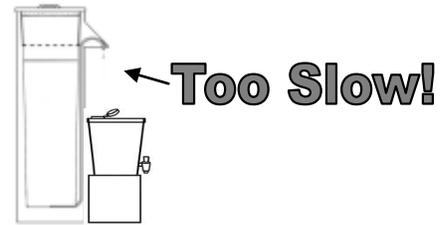


The user should **NEVER** put chlorine inside the outlet tube or into the top of the filter!

## Stage I: Educate the User

### 2. How to clean the filter –Continued

#### Swirl and Dump




1. Take off the lid. Pour water into the filter until the water level is above the diffuser.  
  
Take out the diffuser.



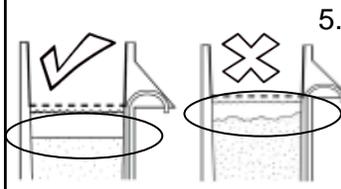
2. Put your hand flat on the sand. Swirl the surface of the sand around in a circle a few times.



3. Use a cup or small bucket to scoop out the dirty water from the top of the filter.



4. Pour the dirty water down a drain or into the bushes.  
  
Repeat steps 2, 3 and 4 a few times.



5. Make the top of the sand flat and level.



6. Wash the lid and diffuser in soapy water. Rinse with clear water.



7. Put the diffuser back in the filter.



8. Wash your hands with soap and water. This is important since the top of the sand is very dirty.



9. Pour a bucket of water into the top of the filter.  
  
If the flow rate is still too slow, repeat the swirl and dump until the flow rate is faster.

## Stage I: Educate the User

### 3. Safe water storage

Safe storage means keeping the water from getting contaminated again. If hands, dippers, cups or anything else touch the water, it will become unsafe to drink again. Open buckets are not safe storage since anything can fall into the bucket and contaminate the water.



There are many designs for safe water containers around the world. A safe water storage container should have the following qualities:

- Strong and tightly fitting lid or cover
- Tap or narrow opening for pouring water out
- Stable base so it doesn't tip over
- Easy to clean
- Durable and strong
- Containers that are not transparent (not see-through) or that have a coloured tint are better than clear bottles. Algae may grow inside clear containers since the sunlight can go through them.

## Stage I: Educate the User

### 4. How to clean a safe storage container

	<p>1. Wash your hands with soap.</p>		<p>6. Let the container and lid air-dry.</p>
	<p>2. Wash the inside and outside of the container and its lid with soap and treated water. It can be boiled, filtered, SODIS or chlorinated water.</p>		<p>7. Wipe the tap with a clean cloth and chlorine.</p>
	<p>3. Empty the soapy water through the container's tap.</p>		<p>8. Put chlorine tablets or drops into the container. Fill the container with treated water. Let it sit for 30 minutes.</p>
	<p>4. Rinse the container and lid using treated water. It can be boiled, filtered, SODIS or chlorinated water.</p>		<p>9. Empty the chlorinated water through the tap. You can drink this water, or dump it down a drain.</p>
	<p>5. Empty the rinse water through the container's tap.</p>		

## Stage I: Educate the User

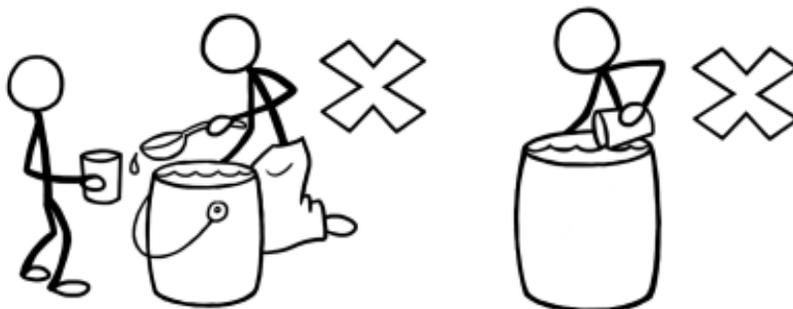
### 5. Using your treated water

It is important to protect your treated water and keep it from getting dirty again.

1. It is best if the safe storage container has a tap. If there is no tap, pour the water out. You should be able to get the water out of the safe storage container without using a cup or dipper.



Cups and dippers can be dirty from sitting on the counter or table, or from people touching them with their hands. Dirt and pathogens from hands, cup or dipper will go into the water. Then the water may make you sick when you drink it.



2. Use the treated water as soon as possible. Try to use it all within 1 day.



3. Use chlorine. Adding chlorine to your filtered water will protect it against being contaminated again. The chlorine in the water will kill any new pathogens that get into the water after it has been filtered.



### Stage F: Follow-Up With the User



## Stage J: Follow-Up With the User

---

### 1. Follow-up visits

It is important to visit the users after they start using the filter. People forget the details about how to use and clean the filter, so you will need to remind them. They may also have questions about the filter or about water, sanitation or hygiene.



#### When to do visits:

- 1 week after installation
- 1 month after installation
- 3 to 6 months after installation
- 1 year after installation (optional)

### 2. How to do a household visit

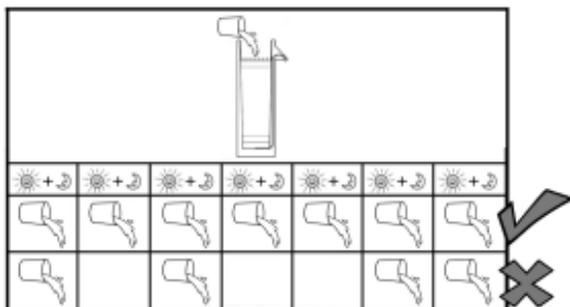
- Be polite and friendly.
- Take your monitoring forms and make notes during the visit.
- Try to talk to the person or people who use the filter the most.
- Ask the user how they like the filter.
- Ask if they have any questions about using the filter or about the filtered water.



## Stage J: Follow-Up With the User

### 3. Things to check during a follow-up visit

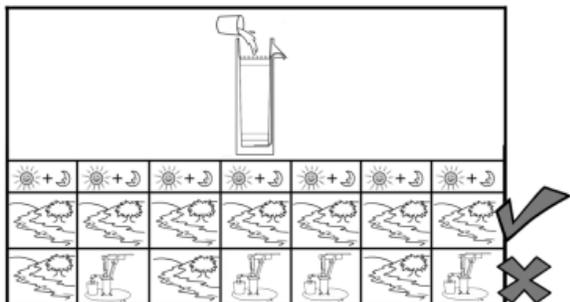
When you visit a user, there are many things to check. Use a monitoring form for follow-up visits, like the form in Appendix 1. Ask the user questions like below. Record the answers on the form.



1. “How often do you pour water into the filter?”

Users should:

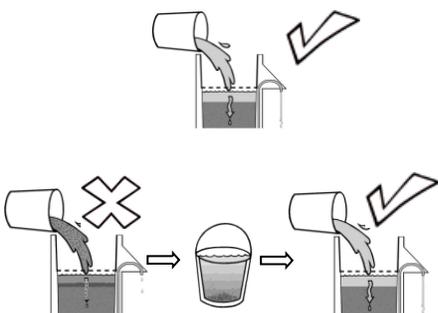
- Pour water into the filter at least once every day.
- After the filter stops running, wait at least 1 hour before pouring in more water.



2. “Where do you get the water to pour into the filter?”

Users should:

- Use the same source of water every day.



3. “Can you show me the water you pour into the filter?”

Users should:

- Pour clear water into the filter.
- If the water is too dirty, let it sit in a bucket until the dirt settles to the bottom. Then pour the clear water into the filter.

#### Tip

The water poured into the filter should not be too dirty. For a quick test: fill a 2 L bottle with the water normally poured into the filter. Put the full bottle on top of the CAWST logo on a manual or monitoring form. Look down through the bottle.

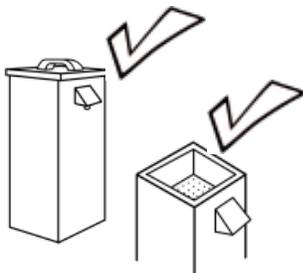
**If you can see the logo**, the water is ok to pour into the filter.

**If you cannot see the logo**, the water is too dirty to pour into the filter.



## Stage J: Follow-Up With the User

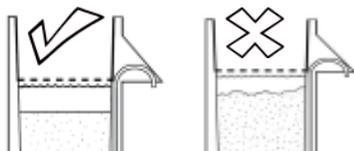
### 3. Things to check during a follow-up visit –Continued



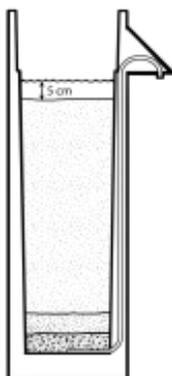
4. “May I take a look in your filter?”
- The lid should be on the filter.
  - The diffuser should be inside the filter.
  - The diffuser and lid should be in good condition.



5. “Are there any cracks or leaks in the filter?”
- Any leaks should be repaired by you or your team.
  - If you must take out the sand and gravel to fix the leak, you will need to re-install the filter with new sand and gravel.
  - If the leak cannot be repaired, you may consider replacing the leaking filter with a new filter.



6. “May I take out the diffuser to see the sand?”
- The surface of the sand should be flat and level.
  - If there are small holes or dents in the sand, look at the diffuser to see if it has cracks or if it does not fit tightly in the top of the filter.
  - If there are big holes and valleys in the sand, ask the user if they sometimes pour water into the filter without the diffuser. Remind them to always keep the diffuser in the filter.

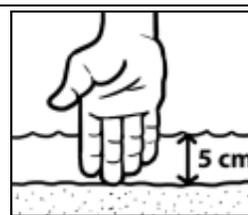


7. “May I check the depth of the water?”
- Check the depth of the water. The standing water above the sand should be about 5 cm (2”) deep. It is ok if it is between 4 cm and 6 cm (1.5” to 2.5”).

**Tip:**

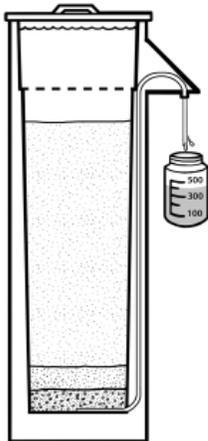
If you do not have a ruler, put your hand into the water. The water should come up to the 2nd knuckle on your middle finger.

This is about 5 cm!



## Stage J: Follow-Up With the User

### 3. Things to check during a follow-up visit –Continued



8. “Can we fill the filter to check the flow rate?”
- The flow rate should be **400 mL per minute or less**.
  - If you are filling a 1 L bottle, it should take 2 minutes 30 seconds or longer to fill.
  - If you are filling a 500 mL bottle, it should take 1 minute 15 seconds or longer to fill.
  - If you are filling a 20 oz (US) bottle, it should take 1 minute 30 seconds or longer to fill.

If the flow rate is very slow, ask the user:

- “Was the flow rate faster when the filter was first installed, or has it always been this slow?”
- “Have you ever done a Swirl and Dump?”
- Ask them to show you how to do a Swirl and Dump. Show them again if they do not remember. Explain that this will help the flow rate become faster again.



9. “Do you clean the filter? How do you clean it?”

Users should:

- Wash the diffuser and lid in soapy water, and keep the outside of the filter clean.
- Wipe the outlet tube with a clean cloth and chlorine.



10. “Has the flow rate ever become too slow? What did you do?” (only ask this if you did not ask them before.)

Users should:

- Do a swirl and dump on the top of the sand.

“Can you show me how to do a swirl and dump?”

- Add water, take out the diffuser and swirl their hand around, flat on the sand. Then scoop and dump out the dirty water in the top of the filter.

See Stage I: Educate the User, Part 2 above, or the CAWST picture-poster for instructions on how to do a swirl and dump. You can leave a poster with the users to remind them.

## Stage J: Follow-Up With the User

---

### 3. Things to check during a follow-up visit –Continued



11. “What containers do you use to collect water from the source? Can you show me? Can you also show me what containers you store your filtered water in?”

Users should:

- Use one container to pour dirty water into the filter, and a different container to collect the filtered water at the outlet.
- Use a safe storage container to catch the filtered water.
- Store drinking water covered with a lid to keep dirt and insects out



12. “Do you clean your water container? How do you clean it?”

Users should:

- Wash the inside of the safe storage container with soap and treated water.
- If chlorine is available, they should add chlorine to the water and let it sit for 30 minutes.
- Wipe the tap with a clean cloth and chlorine.

See Stage I: Educate the User, Part 4 above or the CAWST picture poster for instructions on how to clean a safe water container. You can leave a poster with the users to remind them.



Fill out the monitoring form for Filter Follow-up Visits (Appendix 1).

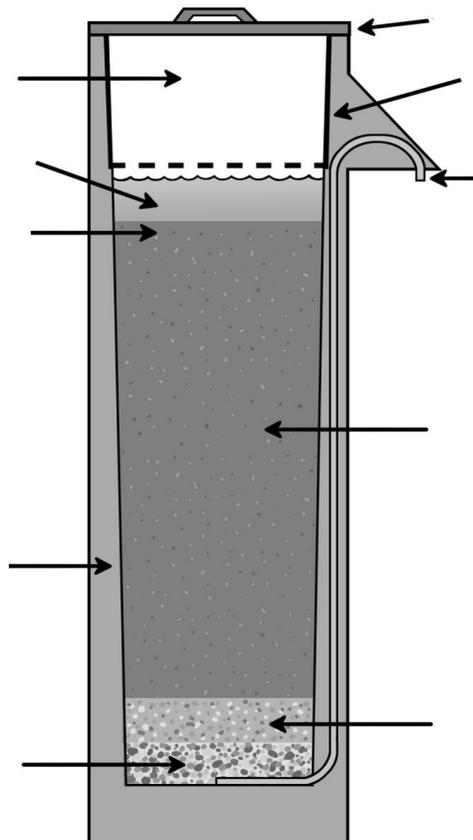
## Self Review

---

1. What are the five steps of the multi-barrier approach? Give an example for each.

Step	Example
1.	
2.	
3.	
4.	
5.	

2. Label the 10 parts of a biosand filter.



3. For each part of the biosand filter describe the function.

Part Name	Function
1.	
2.	
3.	
4.	
5.	
6.	
7.	
8.	
9.	
10.	

4. What should the flow rate be for a biosand filter?

5. List the 3 best sources of filtration sand, in order of how good they are for using inside the biosand filter. List the best source of sand first.

1.
2.
3.

6. Draw and describe what you will use to sieve filtration sand and gravel. Explain how you will sieve the sand and gravel.

7. Draw a proper safe storage container. For each part of the container, explain how it helps keep water safe.

8. List the 8 important points to check to see if the biosand filter is working properly.

1.
2.
3.
4.
5.
6.
7.
8.

9. Describe the 2 ways users need to clean the filter. Explain when users should clean the filter each way.

Type of cleaning	When to do it
1.	
2.	





## Appendix 1 - Monitoring Forms (Examples)

Filter Construction Monitoring Forms .....	A1-1
BSF Production Monitoring Form.....	A1-3
Sand and Gravel Preparation Monitoring Form.....	A1-5
Trial Installation Flow Rate Results.....	A1-7
Diffuser and Lid Monitoring Form.....	A1-9
Filter Installation Monitoring Forms .....	A1-11
Biosand Filter Installation Monitoring Form.....	A1-13
Biosand Filter Multi-Installation Monitoring Form .....	A1-15
Follow-Up Monitoring Forms .....	A1-17
Biosand Filter Follow-Up Visit Monitoring Form .....	A1-19
Biosand Filter Multi Follow-Up Visit Monitoring Form.....	A1-21
Follow-Up Visit Monitoring Form (Visual).....	A1-23



## Filter Construction Monitoring Forms





**Tips and Guidelines for Use**

	<b>Mold Number</b>	<b>Date Poured (day/month)</b>	<b>Filter Number</b>	<b>No Leaks After Demolding</b> ✓ or ✗	<b>7 Days of Curing Time</b> ✓ or ✗	<b>Filter Box Washed Out</b> ✓ or ✗
<b>Tips and Guidelines</b>	Need to track in case there are problems with each of the filters that comes out of this mold.	This can help identify if there were problems with the concrete that was mixed that day.	This is to help track a filter to make sure if problems are identified later all aspects of the filter's production can be reviewed.	If there were no leaks then the processes and capacity of technicians are acceptable. If leaks were identified some analysis can be done to help determine why and help make improvements.	If curing time is tracked, it helps to ensure that the necessary 7 days of curing is respected.	This can help to track if the production processes are being followed.

	<b>Empty Flow Rate</b> ✓ or ✗	<b>Flow Rate (mL/minute)</b>	<b>Water Level Below Diffuser</b> ✓ or ✗	<b>Filter Ready for Installation</b> ✓ or ✗	<b>Comments Or Recommended Actions</b>
<b>Tips and Guidelines</b>	Water should flow freely from the outlet tube. Tracking empty filter flow rate ensures that the tube is not blocked before installation.	Recording flow rate ensures that the flow rate is acceptable.	Ensures that the outlet tube is the right length.	Tracks if filters are ready to be delivered and installed.	

### Sand and Gravel Preparation Monitoring Form

Form #: \_\_\_\_\_ Location: \_\_\_\_\_ Dates: \_\_\_\_\_

**Use ✓ = acceptable or ✗ = unacceptable**

Sieve Sizes	Sieve Set in Good Condition	Sand/Gravel Sieved Properly	Sieved Sand/Gravel Organics Free (Visual Inspection)	Gravel Washed Clean	Jar Test Result on Filtration Sand	Sand /Gravel Stored Properly	The Sand is Useable	The Gravel is Useable	Additional Comments
12 mm (1/2")									
6 mm (1/4")									
1 mm (0.04")									
0.7 mm (0.03")									
<b>TOTAL</b> ✗									
<b>TOTAL</b> ✓									

Lead Technician: \_\_\_\_\_ Manager Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

**Tips and Guidelines for Use**

<b>Sieve Set in Good Condition</b>	<b>Sand/Gravel Sieved Properly</b>	<b>Sieved Sand/Gravel Organics Free (Visual Inspection)</b>	<b>Gravel Washed Clean</b>
This is to ensure that the sieve sets are not damaged which would affect the accuracy of sieving.	This refers to organization of the sand preparation area, to stop mixing of the different sizes of sand and gravel.	To ensure that the prepared sand and gravel does not have organics. This is difficult when the sand preparation area is outside.	To ensure the gravel is ready for installation.

<b>Jar Test Result on Filtration Sand</b>	<b>Sand /Gravel Stored Properly</b>	<b>The Sand is Useable</b>	<b>The Gravel is Useable</b>
To compare to trial installation tests.	Checking on the processes of bagging and storing of materials.	Overall, the sand is ready for installation.	Overall, the gravel is ready for installation.

✓	if acceptable
✗	if unacceptable

**Trial Installation Flow Rate Results**

Test #	Test Date	Sand Source	Delivery Date (Day/Month)	Number of Washes on Filtration Sand	Jar Test Result ✓ or ✗	Trial Installation Flow Rate (mL/min)	Flow Rate Result ✓ or ✗
1							
2							
3							
4							
5							
6							
7							
8							
9							
10							
<b>TOTAL ✓</b>							
<b>% ✓</b>							

Technician Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Supervisor Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

**Guidelines and Tips for Use**

<b>Sand Source</b>	<b>Delivery Date (Day/Month)</b>	<b>Number of Washes on Filtration Sand</b>	<b>Jar Test Result ✓ or ✗</b>	<b>Trial Installation Flow Rate (mL/min)</b>	<b>Flow Rate Result ✓ or ✗</b>
To track where the sand came from.	When it was delivered helps to know which batch the sand came in with.	Tracking for finding average number of washes. Helps to determine number of washes for appropriate jar testing.	Indicate here whether or not the sand was jar tested and if it was acceptable. This is for comparison to the trial installation. If the jar test was positive, but the trial installation is rejected then some investigation needs to happen to determine why.	Trial installation to compare to jar test and other sand parameters.	Was the flow rate acceptable?

**Diffuser and Lid Monitoring Form**

Location: \_\_\_\_\_

Dates: \_\_\_\_\_

Use ✓ to agree or ✗ to disagree

Lids Built Properly	
Lids Fit Properly	
Diffusers Fit Properly	
Diffuser holes = 3 mm or less	
Diffuser holes = 2.5 cm Spacing	

Recommended actions to improve:

Lead Technician: \_\_\_\_\_

Supervisor Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Location: \_\_\_\_\_

Dates: \_\_\_\_\_

Use ✓ to agree or ✗ to disagree

Lids Built Properly	
Lids Fit Properly	
Diffusers Fit Properly	
Diffuser holes = 3 mm or less	
Diffuser holes = 2.5 cm Spacing	

Recommended actions to improve:

Lead Technician: \_\_\_\_\_

Supervisor Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_



## Filter Installation Monitoring Forms



**Biosand Filter Installation Monitoring Form**

<b>Date</b>	<b>Location</b>
<b>Your Name</b>	<b>Name of Household</b>
<b>Filter Number</b>	<b>Phone Number</b>
<b>Address</b>	

	YES ✓	NO ✗
<b>Quality of Construction</b>		
1. There are no leaks in the filter container		
2. The lid has no damage and covers the entire top of the filter		
3. The diffuser has no damage and fits correctly with no gaps around the edges Box <input type="checkbox"/> Plate <input type="checkbox"/>		
<b>Proper Installation</b>		
5. The filter is in good location, away from weather and animals		
4. The filter is level		
6. The filter was installed by filling the filter container half full of water, then adding the gravel and sand		
7. The surface of the sand is flat and level		
8. The depth of the water above the sand is between 4 and 6 cm		
9. The flow rate of the filter is less than 0.4 litres/minute (or it takes longer than 2 minutes 30 seconds to fill a 1 litre bottle)		
10. The user has a container for safe water storage		
<b>Training Provided to User</b>		
11. The users have been taught how to use and maintain the filter		
12. The swirl and dump maintenance procedure has been shown to the user		
13. The user was given an instructional poster/brochure/sticker		
14. The user knows who to contact if they have questions		
<b>Collection of Payment</b>		
15. Payment has been collected from the user and a receipt given		
<b>TOTAL YES / NO</b>		

**Notes:**


---

ALL POINTS SHOULD BE MARKED "YES" BEFORE COMPLETING INSTALLATION

---

## Installation Monitoring Form - Reference Guide

---

### Quality of Construction

1. If the filter is leaking, tell the manufacturer so they can fix it.
2. If the lid is damaged or does not fit, use another one and tell the manufacturer.
3. If the diffuser is damaged or does not fit, use another one and tell the manufacturer.

### Proper Installation

4. The filter should be inside the house or at least under a roof. It should be kept out of the way of animals, maybe with a fence. If the filter needs to be moved once it is installed, a technician will have to re-install the sand and gravel.
5. If the filter is not level, make it level before doing anything else.
6. If gravel and sand are put into the filter when it is not full of water, it will trap air bubbles in the filter. The filter should be emptied out and re-installed if this happens.
7. It is essential that the sand surface is leveled after installation. If the sand is not flat and level, the biolayer will not grow evenly.
8. The water depth should be 5 cm above the sand. If it is more than 5 cm, add more sand. If it is less than 3 cm, remove some sand.
9. When you fill the reservoir with water, the flow rate should be less than 0.4 litres/minute. If the flow rate is faster, the filter will not work properly. The filter should be re-installed with new sand. If the flow rate is slower, the filter is working fine. If you think the flow rate is too slow and the users do not like it, ask the users if they have done a swirl and dump maintenance. If the user has not done a swirl and dump, do one with the users to show them how.
10. Each user should have a safe storage container so the filtered water does not become contaminated again. The storage container should stop people's hands, cups, or dippers from touching the water and be easy to clean.

### Training Provided to User

11. The user should receive a full explanation of the use and maintenance of the filter and should be able to repeat it back to the installer.
12. The procedure should be demonstrated and then if possible practiced by the user.
13. Any printed information available should be left with the user to help them remember the important points of using and maintaining the filter.
14. The users must know how to contact someone if they have problems with their filter or want to ask a question. If not, they may just stop using the filter.

### Collection of Payment

15. A receipt should be given to the user for their payment to the filter. This prevents the loss of any money and prevents future disputes.

## Biosand Filter Multi-Installation Monitoring Form

if acceptable  
 if unacceptable

Technician Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Location: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Date Installed	Filter Number	Household name	Address and Phone Number of Household	Location of Filter In House	Flow Rate (mL/min)	Flow Rate less than 400mL/min ✓ or ✗	Standing Water Depth 4 to 6 cm ✓ or ✗	Swirl and Dump Shown to User ✓ or ✗	Safe Storage ✓ or ✗	Comments
TOTAL ✓										
TOTAL ✗										

Technician Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Supervisor Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_



## Follow-Up Monitoring Forms



**Biosand Filter Follow-Up Visit Monitoring Form**

<b>Date</b>	<b>Location</b>
<b>Your Name</b>	<b>Name of Household</b>
<b>Filter Number</b>	<b>Phone Number</b>
<b>Address</b>	

	YES ✓	NO ✗
<b>The Filter</b>		
1. There are no leaks in the filter container		
2. The lid has no damage and covers the entire top of the filter		
3. The diffuser has no damage and fits correctly with no gaps around the edges Box <input type="checkbox"/> Plate <input type="checkbox"/>		
4. The filter is in a good location, away from weather and animals		
5. The surface of the sand is flat and level		
6. The depth of the water above the sand is between 4 and 6 cm		
7. The flow rate of the filter is less than 0.4 litres/minute (or it takes longer than 2 minutes 30 seconds to fill a 1 litre bottle)		
8. The water does not have a bad taste or smell		
<b>How the Filter is Used</b>		
9. There is no tap and no hose attached to the outlet spout		
10. The outlet spout is clean		
11. The filter is used every day		
12. The water poured into the filter is clear		
<b>Safe Water Storage</b>		
13. The treated water storage container has a lid		
14. The storage container has a narrow opening or a tap to get water out		
15. The storage container is clean		
16. The user has separate containers for collecting and storing water		
<b>Problems with the Filter</b>		
17. Any other problems? (Write them down below.)		
<b>TOTAL YES / NO</b>		

Notes/Problems:

---



---

---

## Follow-Up Visit Monitoring Form Reference Guide

---

### The Filter

1. If the filter is leaking, tell the manufacturer so they can fix it.
2. If the lid is missing or damaged, either the user or the manufacturer can replace it.
3. If the diffuser is damaged, replace it with a new diffuser.
4. The filter should be inside the house or at least under a roof. It should be kept out of the way of animals, maybe with a fence. If the filter needs to be moved, a technician will have to re-install the sand and gravel.
5. If the sand is not flat and level, the diffuser may not be working. If the sand looks like it has been pushed away from the concrete walls, the water may be running around the edges of diffuser plate and the diffuser may need to be replaced.
6. The water depth should be 5 cm above the sand. If it is less than 4 cm or more than 6 cm, add more sand or take some sand out. The biolayer will take 30 days to re-grow.
7. When you fill the reservoir with water, the flow rate should be less than 0.4 litres/minute. If the flow rate is faster, the filter will not work properly. The filter should be re-installed with new sand. If the flow rate is slower, the filter is working fine. If you think the flow rate is too slow and the users do not like it, ask the users if they have done a swirl and dump maintenance. If the user has not done a swirl and dump, do one with the users to show them how.
8. If the treated water has a bad taste or smell, ask the user if they changed the water source recently. Ask them if their water always has that taste or smell at this time of year. Try flushing the filter with many buckets of water. If the problem does not go away after 2-4 weeks, a technician should re-install the filter with new gravel and sand.

### How the Filter is Used

9. There cannot be any taps, valves, hoses or tubes on the outlet spout- the filter will not work well.
10. The outlet spout should not have any dirt or algae on it and should be cleaned regularly. If it is dirty recommend to the user that regular cleaning with soap or chlorine on a cloth is required.
11. The filter must be used every day or two for it to work properly. If it is not being used regularly, instruct the user on the need to use their filter every one or two days and tell the person who is responsible for training users so they can do a follow-up visit.
12. The water that the user pours into the top of the filter should not be too dirty or cloudy. To test if it is too dirty, fill a 2 litre bottle with the water. Put the bottle on top of the CAWST logo on this form. Look down into the top of the bottle. If you can see the CAWST logo through the water in the bottle, the water is OK to pour into the BSF. If you cannot see the logo through the water in the bottle, the water is too dirty to pour into the BSF. Tell the user to let the water stand in a container for a few hours so the dirt settles to the bottom, then pour the clear water into the BSF.

### Safe Water Storage

13. The storage container should have a lid so the water does not get contaminated. It also stops people from putting their hands, cups, or dippers into the water.
14. There should be an easy way to get the water out of the container without dipping.
15. The storage container should have no dirt or algae in it. If it is not clean, explain that they need to keep the container clean, and show them how (use soap and safe water).
16. The user must use different containers for collecting water and for storing water, so that they do not contaminate their treated water. If they are not using different containers, explain that they should use separate containers and tell the person who trains users.

### Problems with the Filter

17. Writing down any problems with filters on the correct form will help make sure they are solved and help the project manager improve the project.

## Biosand Filter Multi Follow-Up Visit Monitoring Form

if acceptable  
 if unacceptable

Technician Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Location: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Filter number	Household name	Flow rate (mL/min)	Flow rate less than 400mL/min ✓ or ✗	Diffuser OK ✓ or ✗	Surface of sand is flat and level ✓ or ✗	Standing water depth 4 to 6 cm ✓ or ✗	Water poured into filter is not too dirty ✓ or ✗	Filter used every day ✓ or ✗	Filter and outlet spout clean ✓ or ✗	Safe water storage ✓ or ✗	Comments
TOTAL ✓											
TOTAL ✗											

Technician Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Supervisor Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_



### Follow-Up Visit Monitoring Form (Visual)



<b>Name of Technician or Community Health Promoter:</b>	
<b>Date of visit:</b>	
<b>Household Name:</b>	
<b>Phone Number:</b>	
<b>House address or Location:</b>	
<b>Filter Number:</b>	<b>How long have you been using the filter?</b>
<b>How many people use the filter?</b>	<b>How many times to you pour water into the filter per day?</b>

**What is the source water that is poured into the filter?**

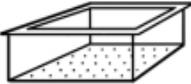
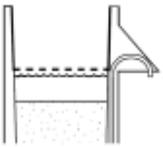
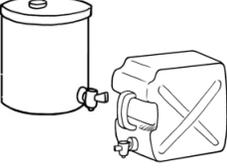
<input type="checkbox"/> <b>OR</b> <input type="checkbox"/>					
	<b>River or Pond</b>	<b>Open Well</b>	<b>Closed Well</b>	<b>Tap Stand</b>	<b>Pump</b>

**Besides the biosand filter, what other methods do you use to treat your water?**

<input type="checkbox"/> <b>OR</b> <input type="checkbox"/>					<b>Other</b>
	<b>No Treatment</b>	<b>Settling</b>	<b>Boiling</b>	<b>Chlorine</b>	

**Does anyone in the home suffer from the following?**

<input type="checkbox"/> <b>OR</b> <input type="checkbox"/>					<b>Other</b>
	<b>Diarrhea</b>	<b>Stomach Ache</b>	<b>Skin Infection</b>	<b>Eye Infection</b>	

Operating Parameters				
✓ OR ✗	4-6 cm  Standing water depth = 4 to 6 cms	 Flow rate	 BSF used once a day?	 Diffuser is in good condition
		_____ mL/min OR _____ min:sec to fill 1 L bottle		
✓ OR ✗	 Sand is flat and level	 Source water is clear	 Clean safe storage container used	 No leaks
End User Competence				
USER SHOWED ME CORRECTLY HOW TO :  ✓ OR ✗	 Clean Filter Container	 Swirl and Dump	 Clean Lid and Diffuser	 Clean Safe Water Container
USER SHOWED ME CORRECTLY HOW TO :  ✓ OR ✗	 Use the filter			

## Appendix 2 - Troubleshooting Guide

Construction Troubleshooting Scenarios.....	A2-1
Installation Troubleshooting Scenarios.....	A2-2
Operation Troubleshooting Scenarios .....	A2-3
Construction Troubleshooting Scenarios Answer Key .....	A2-5
Installation Troubleshooting Scenarios Answer Key .....	A2-9
Operation Troubleshooting Scenarios Answer Key .....	A2-13
Who to Contact if You Have Problems .....	A2-19



## **Construction Troubleshooting Scenarios**

- 1. Your filter box breaks during demolding.**
- 2. Your mold is bending during demolding.**
- 3. Your tubing won't stick to the top of the inner mold while pouring the filter.**
- 4. Your filter has cracks at the bottom.**
- 5. Your filter has cracks or leaks in the walls.**
- 6. The nose of the filter is broken.**
- 7. The mold sticks to the concrete during demolding.**
- 8. The outlet tube is plugged with concrete.**
- 9. Chunks break off the top of the filter.**
- 10. The filter's surface is full of holes, but it doesn't leak.**
- 11. Paint is not sticking to the filter.**

## **Installation Troubleshooting Scenarios**

- 1. Filters are breaking during transport.**
- 2. The family wants the filter installed outside.**
- 3. There isn't enough gravel to make 5cm depth.**
- 4. There isn't enough sand.**
- 5. The water coming out of the filter has leaves, plant pieces or dirt in it.**
- 6. The water coming out of the filter smells like chlorine.**
- 7. The standing water level is more than 6 cm deep.**
- 8. The standing water is less than 4 cm deep.**
- 9. The flow rate is less than 0.4 litres/minute.**
- 10. The flow rate is much more than 0.4 litres/minute.**
- 11. There is no water flowing out of the filter when water is poured in the top.**
- 12. You only have time to install filters in people's homes without explaining how to use the filter.**
- 13. People don't seem interested in the filters, disinfection or safe storage containers.**

## Operation Troubleshooting Scenarios

1. Water leaving the filter is very turbid (dirty).
2. The standing water level is more than 6 cm deep.
3. The standing water is less than 4 cm deep.
4. You open the lid and remove the diffuser, but you can't see any water.
5. Filter looks fine, but the flow rate is too fast.
6. Filter looks fine, but the flow rate is too slow.
7. Filter looks fine, but there is no flow.
8. The filtered water has a bad taste.
9. A filter was installed yesterday and is suddenly clogged this morning.
10. During a follow-up visit, you notice that there are indents and craters in the sand.
11. You only have time to install filters in people's homes without explaining how to use the filter.
12. People don't seem interested in the filters, disinfection or safe storage containers.
13. Filter looks fine, no obvious problems. The family tells you that they are cleaning the filter once a week. What is wrong?
14. Filter looks fine, but people are still getting sick.
15. Food is stored inside the filter.
16. The users want to move the filter.
17. The family is using the same bucket for collecting the source water and collecting the filtered water.



## Construction Troubleshooting Scenarios Answer Key

### 1. Your filter box breaks during demolding or has significant cracks.

There may be a problem with the shape of your mold or the welding. Compare your mold with CAWST's design to see how different it is. You may have to talk to a welder to solve the problem. If differences aren't significant, you may find that concrete is attaching to rough parts of the mold or rivets in the mold. In this case, you will need to sand the mold smooth with sand paper for metal or steel wool

Concrete boxes can also break during demolding if it is cool at night and they haven't been given enough time to cure. The concrete is still very weak when you try to demold. Try leaving the concrete in the molds for over 24 hours before demolding.

### 2. Your mold is bending during demolding.

Usually this means you didn't use enough oil. Try tapping the mold with a rubber hammer while you are demolding. If you can't remove the mold without bending it, try breaking up the concrete and destroying the filter box. It is better to lose a filter box than a mold. Use your judgment if forcing the inner mold out will cause damage to the mold.

Also, check to see that the mold is made from steel that is 3 mm thick. Thinner metal will bend more easily and the mold will be damaged. Put the mold aside, and when it is clean check it for rough seams and rough surfaces that might make the concrete stick to the mold. If there are rough places, try to sand them smooth. The metal must be smooth or else the concrete will stick to the metal.

### 3. Your filter has cracks at the bottom.

It is very common to have cracks at the bottom of the filter. The bottom of the filter is at the top of the mold when you are pouring the filter (until you demold and flip the filter over). When the mold is full of concrete, make sure you stick a trowel into the wet concrete all around the top of the mold. This will help the concrete stick together better in the bottom of the filter. After you are finished pouring the filter, wait 30-45 minutes and then go back and stick a trowel into the wet concrete again, all around the top of the mold. Then smooth the top of the wet concrete again so the filter has a flat bottom. Place damp sand on top of the base to prevent the concrete from drying out too quickly as it sets.

### 4. Your filter has cracks or leaks in the walls.

The concrete may be too dry. Try adding more water to the concrete mix. Make sure there are no rocks bigger than 12mm in the concrete mix. Big rocks will go all the way through the walls of the filter, making cracks and causing leaks.

You may need to do more compacting with the wooden/metal bar and bang more with the rubber hammer while you are pouring the concrete into the mold. Pour the concrete in slowly - a scoop at a time - and compact it a lot with the bar. Have someone hitting the outside of the mold

with the rubber hammer, starting at the bottom and working the way up to the top of the mold, then start at the bottom again. Do this a lot on all 4 sides of the mold as you are pouring concrete in slowly. The less air bubbles in the concrete, the fewer holes and leaks there will be.

You may also need to wait longer before demolding. Filters can crack when they are demolded too soon, and the concrete is still weak. Wait a few hours longer until the concrete is stronger.

Small leaks can be repaired with cement paste. Chip away some of the concrete around the leak, and then fill the leak and surrounding area with cement paste. This may work best if you repair the area around the leak on both the inside and the outside of the filter. Let the new cement dry completely before painting, transporting or installing it.

#### **5. The nose of the filter is broken.**

Be very careful when removing the nose plate of the mold. Bang the nose lightly on the outside of the mold as you are removing the mold. Also try putting more oil on the mold at the nose. While pouring the concrete into the mold, bang on the nose with the rubber hammer to make sure enough concrete gets into the nose. You should see gray water start to come out of the nose plate.

#### **6. Chunks break off the top of the filter.**

Be very careful with the filter after demolding – the concrete is very fresh and weak. Do not grab the filter by the top to move it. The concrete will get stronger over the next 7 days after demolding. If the concrete is still breaking, try leaving the filters in the molds longer before demolding, so the concrete is stronger when you demold.

Your concrete may be too wet when you pour the mold. Try using less water in the mix. More water makes concrete weaker.

#### **7. The mold sticks to the concrete during demolding.**

Usually this means you didn't use enough oil. Try tapping the mold with a rubber hammer while you are demolding. If you can't remove the mold without bending it, try breaking up the concrete and destroying the filter box. It is better to lose a filter box than a mold. Use your judgment if forcing the inner mold out will cause damage to the mold.

Put the mold aside, and when it is clean check it for rough seams and rough surfaces that might make the concrete stick to the mold. If there are rough places, try to sand them smooth. The metal must be smooth or else the concrete will stick to the metal.

#### **8. Your tubing won't stick to the top of the inner mold while pouring the filter.**

Do not oil the top of the inner mold, since the tape will not stick to it then. Try to find a very sticky tape. You may have to use a lot of tape.

#### **9. The outlet tube is plugged with concrete.**

Plug the outlet tube at the nose with tape or a cloth so no concrete gets into it. Put a piece of tape over the end of the outlet tube that is taped to the mold so no concrete gets into the tube.

After demolding, you need to be able to reach inside the filter all the way to the bottom, and pull out all the tape. Be careful reaching into the filter as the concrete is still weak. \\\

#### **10. The filter's surface is full of holes but it doesn't leak.**

There are air bubbles in the concrete. You need to do more compacting with the wooden/metal bar and bang more with the rubber hammer while you are pouring the concrete into the mold. Pour the concrete in slowly - a scoop at a time - and compact it a lot with the bar. Have someone hitting the outside of the mold with the rubber hammer, starting at the bottom and working the way up to the top of the mold, then start at the bottom again. Do this a lot on all 4 sides of the mold as you are pouring concrete in slowly.

You can also try adding more water to the concrete mix. Adding more water will make a smoother finish on the outside of the filter, but it will also make the concrete weaker.

#### **11. Paint is not sticking to the filter.**

Try using a concrete primer paint first. Primer paint should stick better to concrete. Then apply the paint. Paint only the outside of the filter. Do not paint the inside of the filter so no chemicals get into the drinking water.



## **Installation Troubleshooting Scenarios Answer Key**

### **1. Filters are breaking during transport.**

Be very careful when moving filters. Try cushioning filters in the truck using sand bags, sacks or other materials. Make sure filters have cured for at least 7 days after demolding before moving them, so the concrete is strong. If the filters are still breaking easily, try using less water in the concrete mix (water makes concrete weak). Also try buying better quality cement.

### **2. The family wants the filter installed outside.**

An acceptable location for a filter is somewhere where it will be safe, where animals cannot touch it, where it will not get bumped or knocked over. It should be under a roof to keep it clean and cool. It should be accessible and easy to use for the family. Filters are usually installed in the kitchen, but may also be in another room, on the porch, or in a protected and covered area outside.

### **3. There isn't enough gravel to make 5cm depth.**

It is important that there is enough gravel, so that sand and small gravel do not get into the outlet tube and block it. Also, if you don't have enough gravel, you will need to use extra sand so that the standing water level is correct and the biolayer does not die. Keep 1 or 2 extra bags of each type of gravel in the truck and bring them with you on every installation, so that you can add more gravel to a filter if you need to.

### **4. There isn't enough sand.**

The sand is the most important part of the filter, and you need the correct amount of it. You need to put enough sand in the filter so that there is only 5 cm between the top of the sand and the end of the outlet tube. If there isn't enough sand, the standing water level will be too deep. The biolayer that lives in the top of the sand will not get any air, and it will die. Also, if the total height of the sand inside the filter is not enough, it will not do a good job of trapping pathogens. Keep 1 or 2 extra bags of sand in the truck and bring them with you to every installation, so that you can add more sand to a filter if you need to.

### **5. The water coming out of the filter has leaves, plant pieces or dirt in it.**

This is normal during the flushing period of the filter installation. If, however, the water is still turbid after over 60 litres of flushing (about 5 filter runs), or if it is still turbid the next morning after an installation, this means that your sand needs to be washed more. If washing your sand more would drastically increase the flow rate of your filter, this means that finer sand (smaller grains) needs to be used. You can try to find another sand source. Or use a finer mesh sieve to get smaller grains from your existing sand source.

Your filter may also produce turbid water if your gravel is not washed clean enough. A good test is to run water through a filter with only the gravel layers installed. Capture water in a glass jar to

visually check that it has very low turbidity. Keep flushing buckets of water through the filter, and the water should become clear.

#### **6. The water coming out of the filter smells like chlorine.**

The chlorine smell is probably from disinfecting the outlet tube when you installed the filter. It may also be coming from the sand if you washed the sand in bleach to clean it (if you had to use river sand for filtration sand). You need to flush the filter with more water. Pour a total of 60-80 litres of water into the top of the filter (about 5 to 7 runs), until the water is clear and does not smell of chlorine.

#### **7. The standing water is more than 6 cm deep.**

This is a problem because it means that not enough oxygen will be diffusing to the biolayer. One possible cause is that the filter is clogged. To test if this is the case, fill the filter to the top and measure its flow rate. If the flow rate is close to 0.4 L/min, it means that the outlet tube is likely the cause of the problem.

The first thing to check is the outlet tube length. The standing water level in the filter is controlled by a siphoning effect in the tube, meaning that the water will rest at the level of the end of the tube. If the tube is not cut evenly, then it will rest at the level of the highest edge. If there is very small difference (less than 1 cm) between the edge of the tube and the bottom of the filter's nose, then the tube is probably too short.

If the tube length is normal, then the problem is likely its internal diameter. The internal diameter of the tube should be  $\frac{1}{4}$ ". Anything larger, and there is a risk that the water flowing through the tube won't fill the tube volume as the filter reaches the end of its run. If this happens, air can enter the tube, causing the siphon to break and leaving the water level too high in the filter.

If the tube looks ok, there may not be enough sand in the filter. If the sand level is too low, the standing water level above the sand will be too deep. Add more sand to the top of the filter.

#### **8. The standing water is less than 4 cm deep.**

The standing water level should be at least 4-5 cm deep. If it is too shallow, the biolayer may dry out if the water evaporates, or the biolayer may be disturbed by drops hitting it when water is poured into the top of the filter. Check the length of the outlet tube. The water surface should be at the same level as the end of the outlet tube. If the outlet tube can be cut shorter, cut it off so that the water level is 5 cm deep. If the tube cannot be cut shorter, you have to remove some sand.

#### **9. The flow rate is less than 0.4 litres/minute.**

You haven't washed the sand enough. There is too much very fine dust in the sand, and it is clogging the filter. The fine dust may wash out as you flush the filter. Try pouring 60 litres (about 5 runs) through the filter. If the flow rate is acceptable for the user, leave the filter as it is. Water treatment will be just as good or better with a slow flow rate. If the flow rate does not increase or is not acceptable to the user, remove all the sand. Re-install the filter with new sand that has been washed more and tested in a filter at the production site.

**10. The flow rate is much more than 0.4 litres/minute.**

You have washed the sand too much. Try washing the sand less. If changing the number of times you wash the sand does not change the flow rate, you need to use finer sand with smaller grains. You can try to find another sand source. Or use a finer mesh sieve to get smaller grains from your existing sand source. Filters with flow rate that are much more than 0.4 litres/minute should be re-installed. Take out all the sand, and put in new sand that has been washed less and tested in a filter at the production site.

**11. There is no water flowing out of the filter when water is poured in the top.**

Look in the outlet tube to see if it is blocked. Try blowing into the end of the outlet tube – if no air goes in, the tube may be completely blocked. If the tube is blocked and you cannot unblock it, you will have to take all the sand and gravel out of the filter. If you cannot solve the problem, take the filter back to the shop and install a new one in the home. You can try to unblock the tube using compressed air. If the tube cannot be unblocked, it will have to be thrown out. All filters should be checked after they are demolded to make sure the tube is not blocked with concrete. If several tubes are getting blocked, you may have pieces of gravel that are too small in your large drainage gravel (the bottom layer). Try using a smaller mesh sieve for your drainage gravel. The holes in the sieve should be 6mm (1/4 inch). The wires in the mesh should be woven together so that the wires cannot move and make bigger holes.

**12. You only have time to install filters in people's homes without explaining how to use the filter.**

A filter without training on its use and maintenance is basically useless. As project implementers, you have a responsibility to ensure that households have the tools and support to be able to continue using their filter. This means having enough time for follow-up visits to ensure that filter users are knowledgeable.

**13. People don't seem interested in the filters, disinfection or safe storage containers.**

There may be a lot of scepticism over any new technology you are hoping to offer a community. People in the developing world have often been promised a number of inventions from the outside world with sometimes little or no follow-up.

It is recommended that you work closely with individuals from the community in which you are working. A native of the country does not suffice if that individual has significant cultural, economic, or geographic disconnect to the people you are hoping to help.

There is also a possibility that individuals will be interested in embracing one element of the technology without following the entire water treatment process from start to finish. It is important to give households all the tools and support needed to best treat their water, but you cannot force individuals to do exactly as you say.



## Operation Troubleshooting Scenarios Answer Key

### 1. Water leaving the filter is very turbid (dirty).

This is normal during the flushing period of the filter installation. If, however, the water is still turbid after over 60 litres of flushing (about 5 filter runs), or if it is still turbid the next morning after an installation, this means that your sand needs to be washed more. If washing your sand more would drastically increase the flow rate of your filter, this means that finer sand (smaller grains) needs to be used. You can try to find another sand source. Or use a finer mesh sieve to get smaller grains from your existing sand source.

Your filter may also produce turbid water if your gravel is not washed clean enough. A good test is to run water through a filter with only the gravel layers installed. Capture water in a glass jar to visually check that it has very low turbidity. Keep flushing buckets of water through the filter, and the water should become clear.

### 2. The standing water is more than 6 cm deep.

This is a problem because it means that not enough oxygen will be diffusing to the biolayer. One possible cause is that the filter is clogged. To test if this is the case, fill the filter to the top and measure its flow rate. If the flow rate is close to 0.4 L/min, it means that the outlet tube is likely the cause of the problem.

The first thing to check is the outlet tube length. The standing water level in the filter is controlled by a siphoning effect in the tube, meaning that the water will rest at the level of the end of the tube. If the tube is not cut evenly, then it will rest at the level of the highest edge. If there is very small difference (less than 1 cm) between the edge of the tube and the bottom of the filter's nose, then the tube is probably too short.

Make sure there is not a tap on the outlet. A closed tap will keep too much water in the filter.

If the tube length is normal and there is no tap, then the problem is likely the tube's internal diameter. The internal diameter of the tube should be  $\frac{1}{4}$ ". Anything larger, and there is a risk that the water flowing through the tube won't fill the tube volume as the filter reaches the end of its run. If this happens, air can enter the tube, causing the siphon to break and leaving the water level too high in the filter.

If the tube looks ok, there may not be enough sand in the filter. If the sand level is too low, the standing water level above the sand will be too deep. Add more sand to the top of the filter. Tell the family it will take another 4 weeks for the biolayer to develop on the top of the new sand. They should use a disinfection method like chlorine with the filtered water for the next 4 weeks.

### 3. The standing water is less than 4 cm deep.

The standing water level should be between 4 cm and 6 cm deep. If it is too shallow, the biolayer may dry out if the water evaporates, or the biolayer may be disturbed by drops hitting it when water is poured into the top of the filter. Check the length of the outlet tube. The water surface should be at the same level as the end of the outlet tube. If the outlet tube can be cut shorter, cut it off so that the water level is 5 cm deep.

If the tube cannot be cut shorter, you have to remove some sand. Tell the family it will take another 4 weeks for the biolayer to develop on the top of the new sand. They should use a disinfection method like chlorine with the filtered water for the next 4 weeks.

### 4. You open the lid and remove the diffuser, but you can't see any water.

If the filter hasn't been used in a few days, all of the water in the top of the filter could have evaporated. Ask the users when they used the filter last. How often do they use it?

Check your records and ask the users if the filter was installed correctly – has the water level always been below the sand? Perhaps there was too much sand installed in the filter. Some sand will have to be removed so the top of the sand is about 5 cm below the end of the outlet tube.

Check to make sure there is not a hose attached to the spout. If there is a hose, it will make all the water drain out of the filter.

Check and ask the users if the filter leaks. Small leaks can be repaired with cement paste. Chip away some of the concrete around the leak, and then fill the leak and surrounding area with cement paste.

If there is no water above the sand, you must refill the filter with water. But you cannot refill it by pouring a bucket of water into the top of the filter. This may create air bubbles inside the filter, which might stop the filter from working correctly. You must refill the filter with water from the bottom – through the outlet tube.

Take out the diffuser so you can see the top of the sand. Get a hose that fits over the outlet tube, and a funnel that fits into the hose. You can use the same hose and funnel as you use to disinfect the outlet tube when you install filters, but make sure it is rinsed out well so that there is no chlorine in it. Hold the hose and funnel up high, above the top of the sand. Slowly pour water into the funnel. Pour water into the funnel and let it drain into the tube, until you see the water level in the top of the filter rising. When the water level is about 5 cm above the top of the sand, you can remove the hose and funnel. Put the diffuser back in, and pour a bucket of water into the filter. Measure the flow rate.

Explain to the users that they must use the filter at least once every day. If they go away, they must ask someone to pour water into the filter every day so the sand does not dry out. If the sand dries out again, they must call your organization so a technician can come and re-fill the filter from the bottom again.

### **5. Filter looks fine, but the flow rate is too fast.**

Check your records and ask the family if the flow rate was always this fast. If not, ask the family if they have taken the sand out of the filter, or changed it in any way. Ask them how they are maintaining the filter and the sand.

If the flow rate was always fast, the sand has been washed too much. Try washing the sand less. If changing the number of times you wash the sand does not change the flow rate, you need to use finer sand with smaller grains. You can try to find another sand source. Or use a finer mesh sieve to get smaller grains from your existing sand source.

Filters with flow rate that are much more than 0.4 litres/minute should be re-installed. Take out all the sand, and put in new sand that has been washed less and tested in a filter at the production site. Tell the family it will take another 4 weeks for the biolayer to develop on the top of the new sand. They should use a disinfection method like chlorine with their filtered water for the next 4 weeks.

Be sure to test the filtration sand before installing in people's homes. A filter that is not working properly from the beginning might harm the reputation of your project. It may also be possible that people with different sand washing techniques produce different types of washed sand. Everyone has a different style of sand washing which may change results slightly. You might find that having one or two designated sand-washers might prevent this from happening.

### **6. Filter looks fine, but the flow rate is too slow.**

Check your records and ask the family if the flow rate was always this slow. If not, ask them how they are maintaining the filter and the sand. They may only need to do a swirl and dump. If this does not increase the flow rate, check if the outlet tube is partly blocked.

If the flow rate was always very slow, the sand may not have been washed enough. If the flow rate is acceptable for the user, leave the filter as it is. Water treatment will be just as good or better with a slow flow rate. If the flow rate is not acceptable to the user and swirl and dump does not increase it, and the tube is not blocked, remove all the sand. Re-install the filter with new sand that has been washed more and tested in a filter at the production site. Tell the family it will take another 4 weeks for the biolayer to develop on the top of the new sand. They should use a disinfection method like chlorine with their filtered water for the next 4 weeks.

Be sure to test the filtration sand before installing in people's homes. A filter that is not working properly from the beginning might harm the reputation of your project. It may also be possible that people with different sand washing techniques produce different types of washed sand. Everyone has a different style of sand washing which may change results slightly. You might find that having one or two designated sand-washers might prevent this from happening.

### **7. Filter looks fine, but there is no flow.**

Ask the users when the filter stopped flowing. What was the flow rate like before it stopped? Had they changed how they used the filter? Did they change water sources? Did they go away for awhile? Did anything happen to the filter?

First of all, check if the outlet tube is blocked. Try blowing into the tube or using an air pump to unblock the tube.

Look at the diffuser box to see if the holes are clogged. The diffuser may need cleaning.

Try doing a swirl and dump. If the source water that is being poured into the filter is very turbid (dirty), then the users should settle the dirt out of the water first. They should let the water sit in a bucket for a few hours, and the dirt will sink to the bottom. This will help remove the fine particles which are clogging the filter.

### **8. The filtered water has a bad taste.**

The biosand filter doesn't normally produce flavoured water. It could be that the end users are experiencing a different taste than they are used to.

A bad taste could also be coming from oil residue leftover from the construction process. It is important to clean the filters out thoroughly with a little soap and a long brush before installation. Oil residue may take weeks to flush out a filter with regular use and can taste quite unpleasant. Make sure each filter is flushed with about 60 litres of water (about 5 runs) when it is installed to get rid of any dirt or chlorine that is still in the filter or tube.

If the users tell you the bad taste just started happening, it could be coming from the source water. It could be seasonal. Ask the user if they can use a different water source for a few days, and see if the bad taste goes away.

If the problem cannot be solved, take all the sand and gravel out of the filter. Reinstall the filter with fresh, clean, washed sand and gravel.

### **9. A filter was installed yesterday and is suddenly clogged this morning.**

First of all, check if the outlet tube is blocked. Try blowing into the tube or using an air pump to unblock the tube.

Try doing a swirl and dump. If the source water that is being poured into the filter is very turbid (dirty), then the users should settle the dirt out of the water first. They should let the water sit in a bucket for a few hours, and the dirt will sink to the bottom. This will help remove the fine particles which are clogging the filter.

### **10. During a follow-up visit, you notice that there are indents and craters in the sand.**

This is likely caused by the diffuser either being too small or floating up when water is poured into the filter. Both of these situations mean that water is by-passing the diffuser and hitting the sand with force. Measure the inner filter box to get an accurate diffuser plate size, and try placing a rock on top of the diffuser plate to minimize it floating up. It is also recommended that users pour their water into the reservoir slowly to minimize its impact.

### **11. You only have time to install filters in people's homes without explaining how to use the filter.**

A filter without training on its use and maintenance is basically useless. As project implementers, you have a responsibility to ensure that households have the tools and support to be able to continue using their filter. This means having enough time for follow-up visits to ensure that filter users are knowledgeable.

**12. People don't seem interested in the filters, disinfection or safe storage containers.**

There may be a lot of scepticism over any new technology you are hoping to offer a community. People in the developing world have often been promised a number of inventions from the outside world with sometimes little or no follow-up.

It is recommended that you work closely with individuals from the community in which you are working. A native of the country does not suffice if that individual has significant cultural, economic, or geographic disconnect to the people you are hoping to help.

There is also a possibility that individuals will be interested in embracing one element of the technology without following the entire water treatment process from start to finish. It is important to give households all the tools and support needed to best treat their water, but you cannot force individuals to do exactly as you say.

**13. Filter looks fine, no obvious problems. The family tells you that they are cleaning the filter once a week. What is wrong?**

Ask the family to explain how they clean the filter. Do they clean the outlet tube, wash the diffuser, and do the swirl and dump? Do they do the swirl and dump every week? Why are doing it that often? Perhaps they misunderstood the training, or maybe the flow rate slows down that quickly. If the flow rate slows down every week, the source water is too turbid. Suggest they let the water stand in a bucket for a few hours to settle out the dirt, and then pour the cleaner water into the filter. Then they won't have to do the swirl and dump (and disturb the biolayer) so often.

**14. Filter looks fine, but people are still getting sick.**

There are many ways people can get sick. Check if they are using the same bucket for collecting source water and filtered water. Check if the water may be getting contaminated after filtration. Are they using a safe storage container? Are there other sanitation or hygiene issues? Do they sometimes drink untreated water? Check the 8 important things to make sure the filter is working properly. How often do they use the filter?

**15. Food is stored inside the filter.**

Users sometimes store food inside the filter because it is cool. But the inside of a filter is very dirty – it collects dirt and pathogens! Food will get contaminated. The food will also attract bugs to the filter.

**16. The users want to move the filter.**

Filter should not be moved once they are installed. They are very heavy. When you move it, sand and gravel may shake down and block the outlet tube. There may be problems with the filter after it is moved. A technician must re-install the filter if it is moved or if all the sand is taken out.

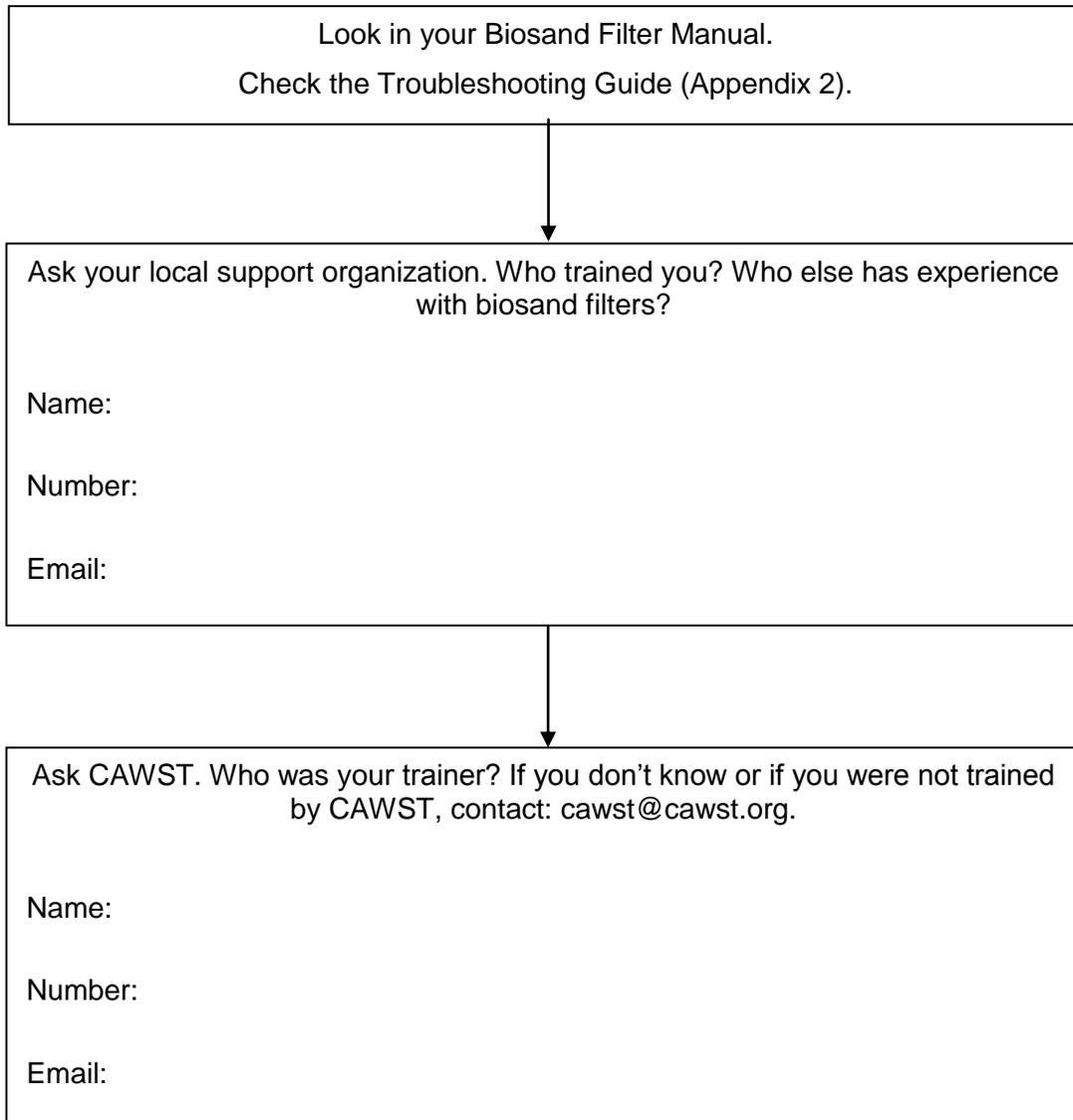
**17. The family is using the same bucket for collecting the source water and collecting the filtered water.**

Users must have a separate safe storage container that is used only for filtered water. If the same bucket is used for unfiltered water, drops of unfiltered water that are left in the bucket can contaminate the whole bucket of filtered water, and make the family sick.

To keep filtered water safe, keep it covered with a lid and pour it from the container instead of dipping cups into the container.

## Who to Contact if You Have Problems

If you have a problem that you can not solve, who will you ask?





## Appendix 3 - Diffuser and Lid Designs

Option 1 – Metal Diffuser Box and Lid .....	A3-1
Option 2 – Metal Diffuser Plate .....	A3-9
Option 3 – Corrugated Plastic Diffuser Plate .....	A3-9
Option 4 – Acrylic/Plastic Diffuser Plate .....	A3-10
Option 5 – Wooden Lid .....	A3-11



## Option 1 – Metal Diffuser Box and Lid

### Tools:

- Long straight edge or ruler (120 cm/48" or longer)
- Tape measure
- Square or right angle
- Marker
- Metal cutters suitable for 28 gauge galvanized sheet metal
- Drill with 3 mm (1/8") drill bit
- Hammer
- Folding tool (e.g. bending brake)
- Anvil or steel plate set in a vice to hammer sheet metal against

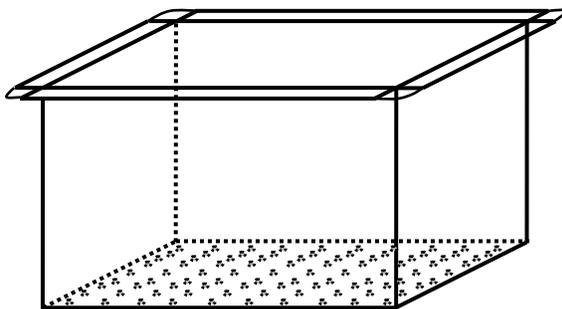
### Materials:

- 1 sheet of galvanized sheet metal 2438 mm x 1219 mm (4' x 8'), 28 gauge thick (0.46 mm or 0.018")

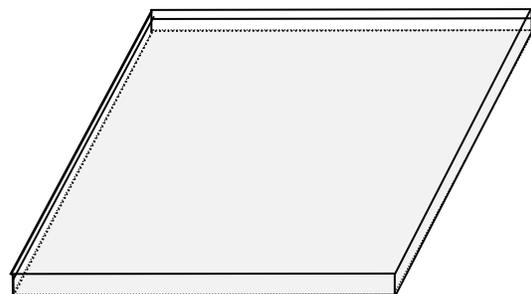
**Note:** Caution! Be careful of sharp edges and wear hand protection if needed.

### Steps:

1. Lay out the sheet metal and mark lines for cutting the outline of each piece according to the dimensions shown on Figure 1.
2. Cut out the side walls, bottoms, lids and corner pieces.
3. Measure and mark cut lines (solid line) and fold lines (dashed) for each piece according to dimensions provided in:
  - i. Figures 2 & 3: Filter lid
  - ii. Figure 4 & 5: Side walls and corner pieces
  - iii. Figure 6 & 7: Bottom piece
4. Cut along solid lines and fold along dashed lines as shown in the folding sequence provided in each Figure.



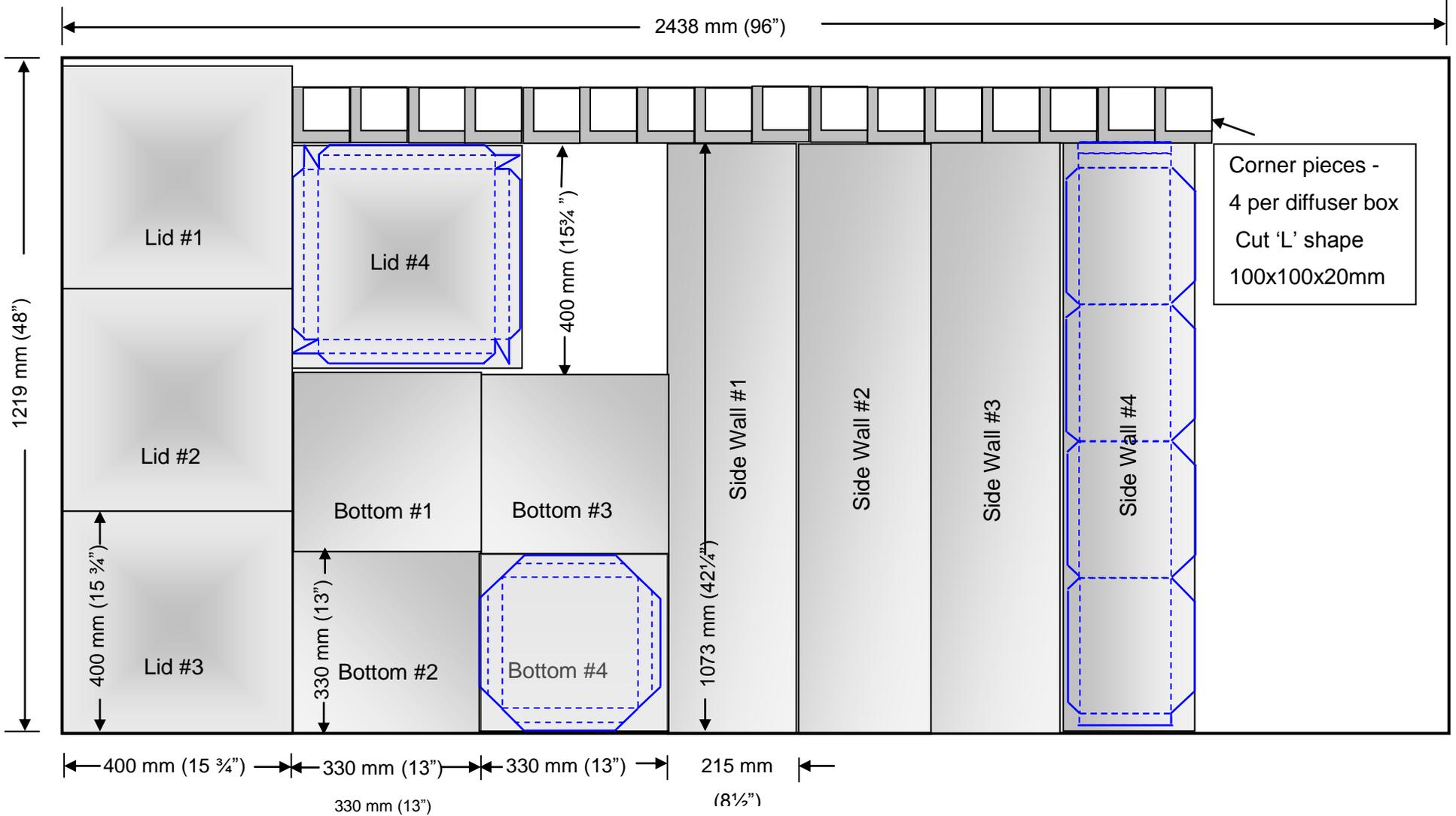
Diffuser Box



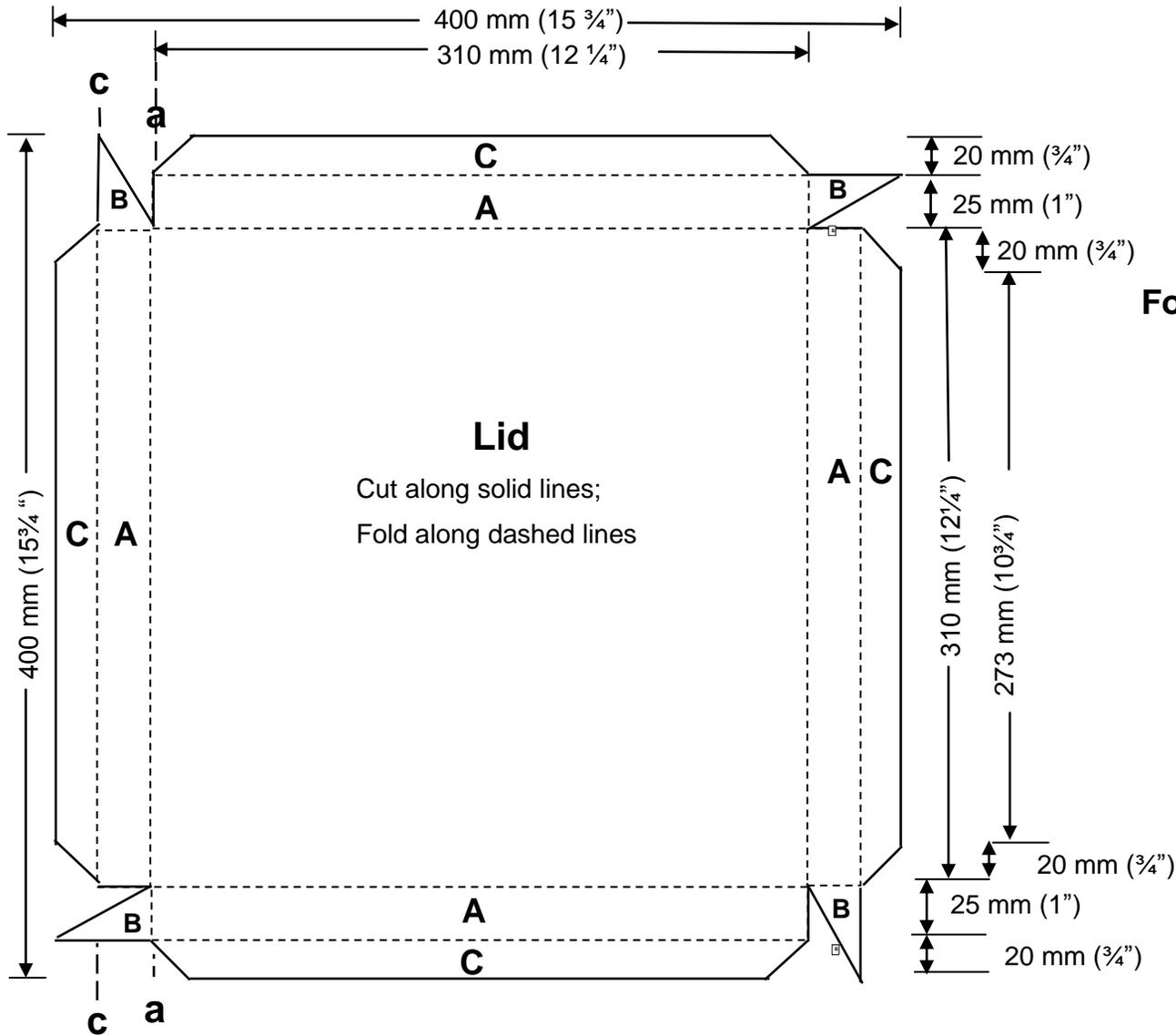
Filter Lid

# Figure 1

## Layout for cutting sheet metal for 4 diffuser boxes



**Figure 2**  
Filter Lid

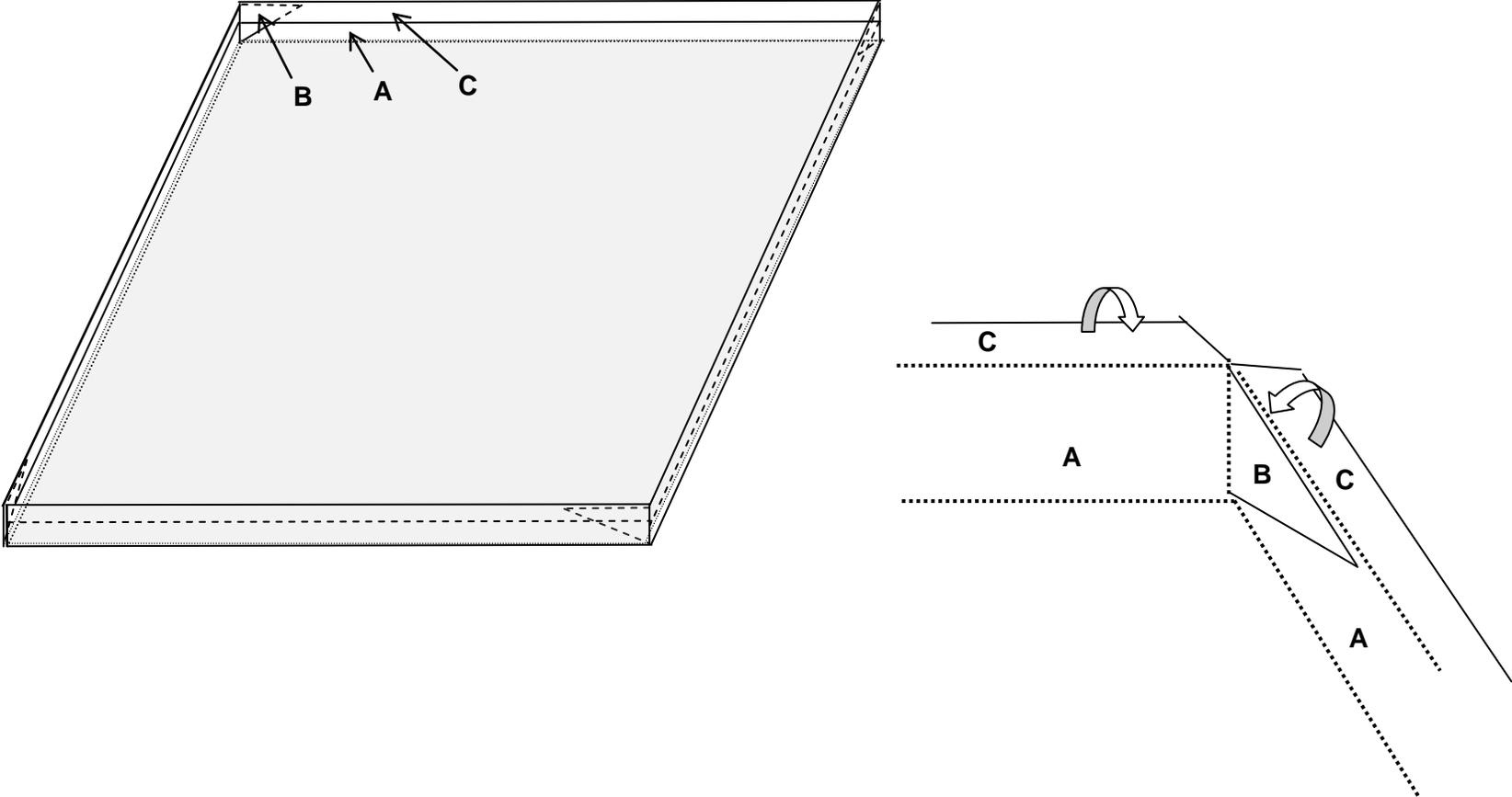


**Folding Sequence for Lid:**

1. Fold four **A** flanges down along bend line **a - a**.
2. Fold flaps **B** 90° inward so they lie alongside (parallel to) flange **A**.
3. Fold flange **C** upwards along **C - C** and press to lock flaps **B** in place.

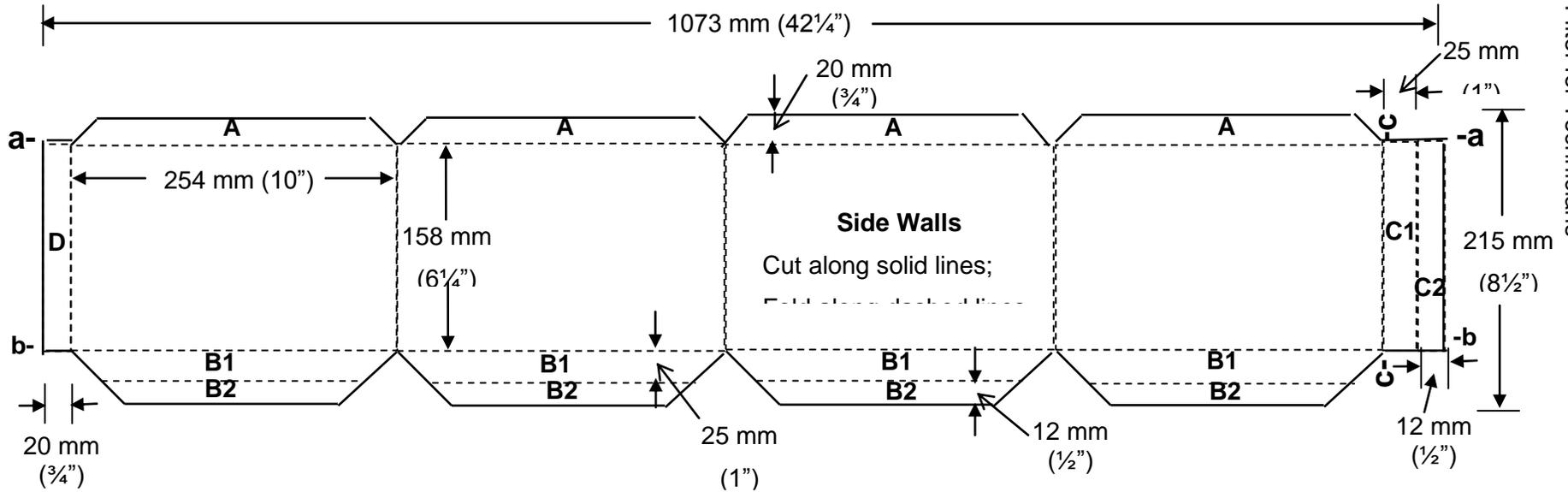
### Figure 3

Folding Detail for Filter Lid



# Figure 4

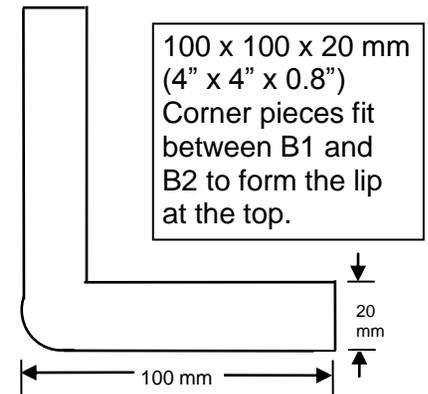
## Side Walls and Corner Pieces



### Folding Sequence for Side Walls

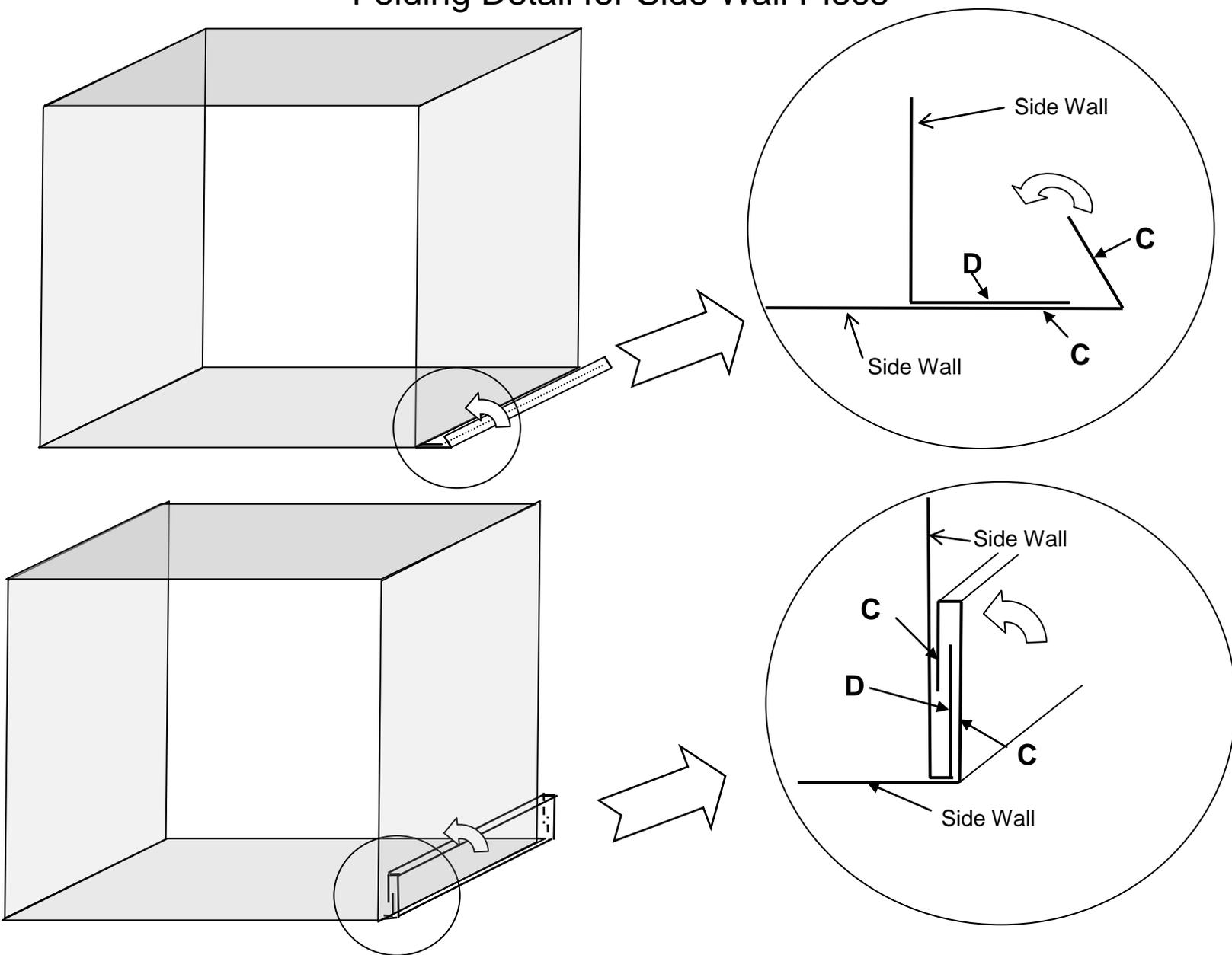
1. Fold flanges **A** to 90° along bend line **a-a**. These flanges will be on the outside of the box and attach to the Bottom Piece.
2. Fold flange **B** (tabs **B1** and **B2**) down 90° along **b-b**
3. Fold **B2** (outer tab of flange **B**) to 90°. This **B** flange will form a lip around the outside of the box. This lip will sit on the top of the walls of the filter to suspend the box in the filter. Tab **B2** will be on the underside of the lip of the box.
4. Fold **C2** (outer tab of flange **C**) to 90°. This flange will be on the outside of the box.
5. Fold flange **D** to 90°. This flange will be on the outside of the box.
6. Fold the box into a square and then fold the locking seam, first folding the outer tab **C2** tightly over flange **D**, then folding along line **c-c**
7. Lay in 2 corner pieces and then finish folding one flange **B** pressing it to lock the corner pieces in place. Work around the rim inserting corners, folding the remaining **B** flanges.

### Corner Pieces



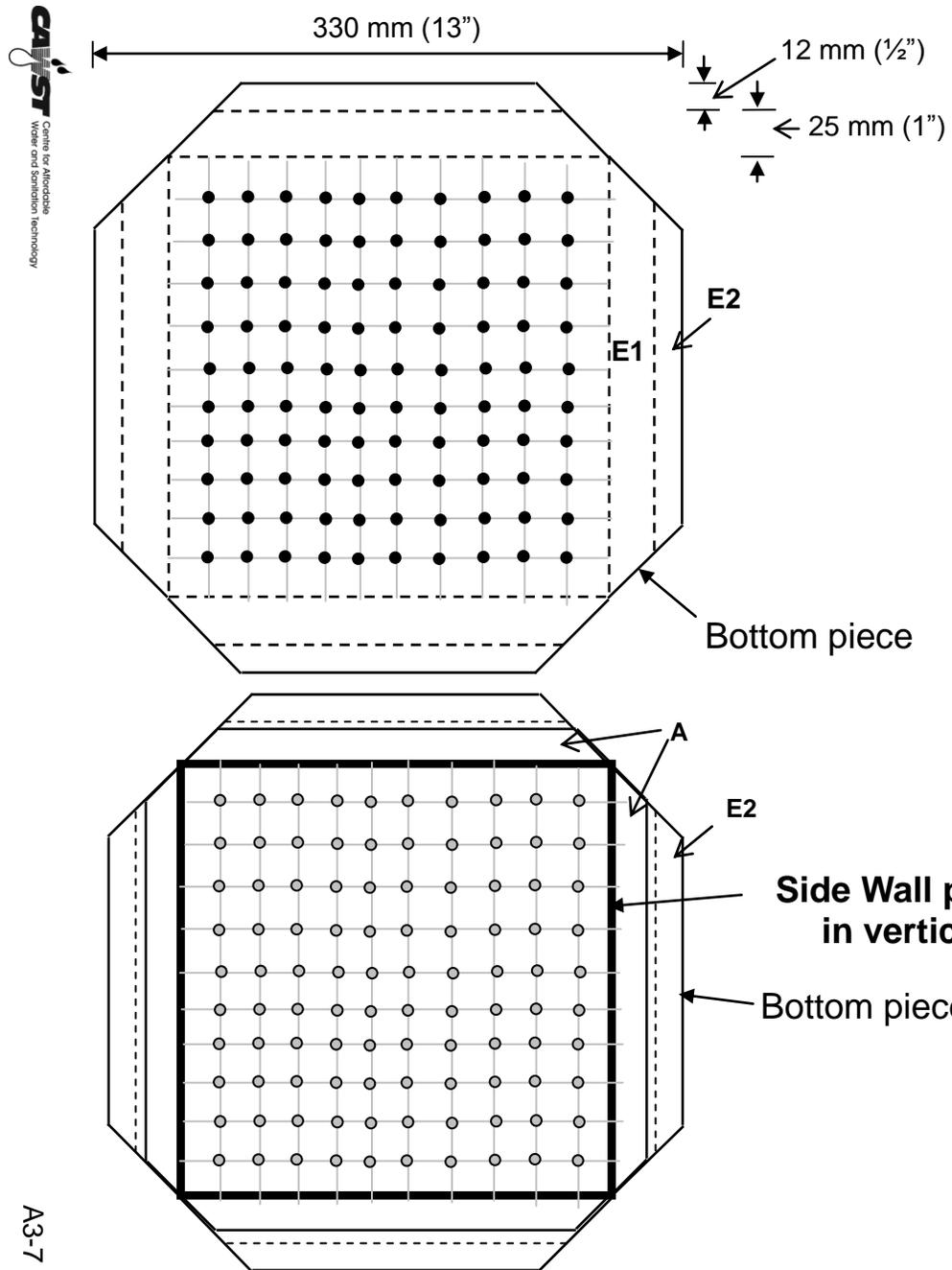
# Figure 5

## Folding Detail for Side Wall Piece



# Figure 6

## Bottom Piece



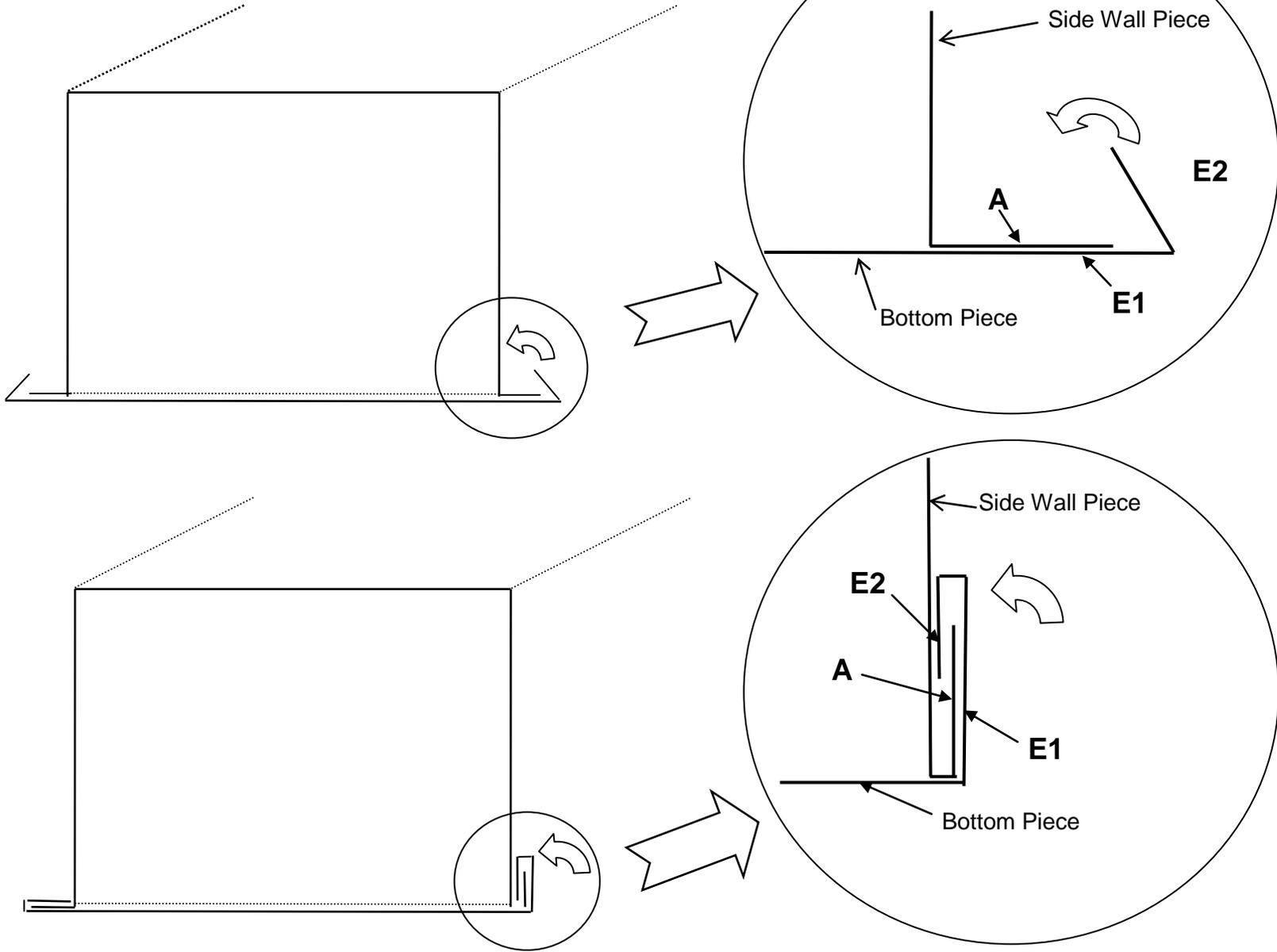
### Folding Sequence for Bottom Piece

1. Punch or drill holes in the Bottom Piece
  - holes to be 3 mm ( $\frac{1}{8}$ " ) in diameter
  - space holes 2.5 cm (1" ) apart
  - make 80 to 100 holes
2. Fold E2 (outer tab of flange E) to 90°
3. Set the box (bold outline below) on the base and fold flanges E2 tightly over flanges A on the bottom sides of the box.
4. Fold up flange E against the outside of the box.

See also Figure 7 – Folding Detail for Bottom Piece

# Figure 7

## Folding Detail for Bottom Piece



## Option 2 – Metal Diffuser Plate

### Tools:

- Tape measure
- Tin snips
- Leather gloves
- Hammer
- Marker
- 3 mm (1/8") diameter nails

### Materials:

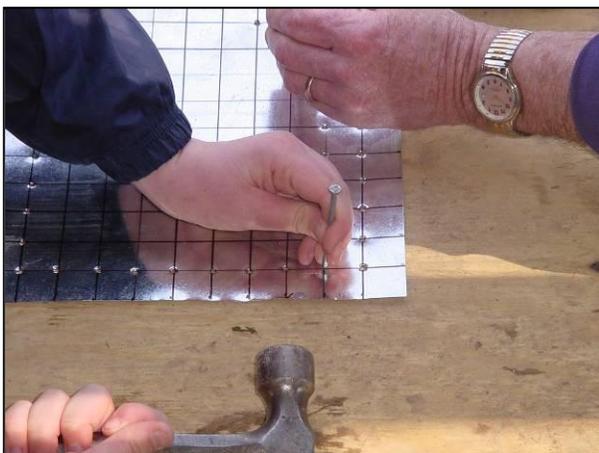
- 30 gauge galvanized sheet metal (or nearest available size)

### Steps:

1. Measure the inside reservoir of the filter at the height of the ledge where the diffuser will sit. If the filter is not perfectly square, you may need to measure the width in both directions.
2. Cut a piece of sheet metal that is 10 cm (4") wider than the reservoir (in both directions).
3. Measure and mark a line 5 cm (2") from the edge of each side.
4. Measure and mark a 2.5 cm x 2.5 cm (1" x 1") grid on the sheet metal, inside the square which is formed by the lines from Step 3.
5. At each intersection on the grid, pound a 3 mm (1/8") diameter hole through the sheet metal, using a hammer and a 3 mm (1/8") diameter nail.

**Tip:** A jig can be constructed out of wood with nail tips in a 2.5 cm x 2.5 cm (1"x1") grid, facing up out of the wood so that the sheet metal can be pounded onto the jig, forming all of the holes in one step.

6. Add an extra row of holes around the circumference of the diffuser. This helps to evenly distribute the water and prevent disturbing the sand near the filter wall.
7. Make a handle so that the diffuser can be easily pulled out, once in place. Handles can be made from a piece of nylon string or wire tied through holes in the diffuser plate, or a bent nail.



Drawing a grid will help with the nail-hole placement



This is an example of a bad diffuser. It has too many holes - only 100 holes are needed.

## Option 3 – Corrugated Plastic Diffuser Plate

### Tools:

- Tape measure
- Utility knife
- Hammer
- Marker
- 3 mm (1/8") diameter nails

### Materials:

- Corrugated plastic sheet (looks like cardboard, but made from plastic)
- Nylon string or nail

### Steps:

1. Measure the inside of the reservoir at the height of the ledge where the diffuser will sit. If the filter is not perfectly square, you may need to measure the width in both directions.
2. Cut a piece of plastic the same size as the reservoir.

**Tip:** Cutting plastic so that it fits snugly in the reservoir will prevent the diffuser from floating when water is poured into the filter. A rock or other weight can also be placed on the diffuser to stop it from floating.

3. Measure and mark a 2.5 cm x 2.5 cm (1" x 1") grid on the plastic.
4. At each intersection on the grid, push a nail with a 3 mm (1/8") diameter through the plastic and then remove it (to create the holes).
5. Add an extra row of holes around the circumference of the diffuser. This helps to evenly distribute the water and prevent disturbing the sand near the filter wall.
6. Make a handle so that the diffuser can be easily pulled out, once in place. Handles can be made from a piece of nylon string or wire tied through holes in the diffuser plate, or a bent nail.



A corrugated plastic diffuser with well placed holes

## Option 4 – Acrylic/Plastic Diffuser Plate

### Tools:

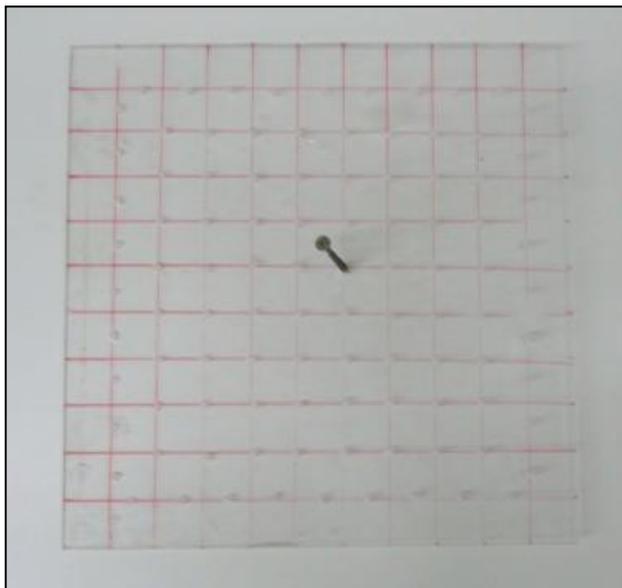
- Tape measure
- Electric saw or acrylic cutting knife
- Electric drill
- Marker
- 3 mm (1/8") diameter nails

### Materials:

- Clear acrylic plastic or stiff polyethylene plastic
- Nylon string or nail

### Steps:

1. Measure the inside of the reservoir at the height of the ledge where the diffuser will sit. If the filter is not perfectly square, you may need to measure the width in both directions.
2. With a saw or using an acrylic cutting knife, cut a piece of plastic the same size as the reservoir.
3. Measure and mark a 2.5 cm x 2.5 cm (1" x 1") grid on the plastic.
4. At each intersection on the grid, drill a 3 mm (1/8") diameter hole through the plastic.
5. Add an extra row of holes around the circumference of the diffuser. This helps to evenly distribute the water and prevent disturbing the sand near the filter wall.
6. Make a handle so that the diffuser can be easily pulled out, once in place. Handles can be made from a piece of nylon string or wire tied through holes in the diffuser plate, or a bent nail.



An acrylic plastic diffuser with well placed holes

## Option 5 – Wooden Lid

### Tools:

- Hammer
- Tape measure
- Saw

### Materials:

- 2.5 cm x 10 cm (1" x 4") lumber (or whatever is locally available)
- Nails or screws

### Steps:

1. Measure the outside width of the concrete filter at the top. If the filter is not perfectly square, you may need to measure the width in both directions.
2. Cut pieces of wood sufficient to cover the entire top of the filter. These pieces will form the lid itself.
3. Place these pieces in the shape of the lid, with the underside facing up.
4. Measure the top inside of the filter reservoir. If the filter is not perfectly square, you may need to measure the width in both directions.
5. Mark the size and position of the opening on the pieces of your lid (from Step 3). Cut two pieces of wood the length of the opening of the filter.
6. Place those two pieces of wood perpendicular to the other pieces, on top of the others.
7. Centre those two pieces of wood so that in both directions, they line up with the opening of the filter that you marked in Step 5. (Those two pieces will sit inside the opening on the filter and will stop the lid from moving in either direction.)
8. Nail each of the two pieces onto all of the other pieces.
9. Flip your lid over and ensure that it fits on the filter. (The two pieces from Step 6 should just fit inside the filter, and the other pieces should cover the entire top edge of the filter.)
10. Attach a handle. This handle is optional as the top of the filter can be used as storage if the handle is not attached (see photo below). If no handle is attached, the filter lid will still be easy to remove.



Top of a wooden lid



Under side of a wooden lid

**Tip:** Nails straight through the lid into the handle don't hold the handle on very well.  
Use at least two nails at different angles or a screw.

## Appendix 4 – The Cost of a Biosand Filter

1. Calculating the cost of construction and installation .....	A4-1
2. Calculating the cost of transportation .....	A4-2
3. Calculating the cost of user education.....	A4-2
4. Calculating the cost of follow-up.....	A4-3
5. Calculating the total cost of a biosand filter .....	A4-4



## 1. Calculating the cost of construction and installation

Calculating the Cost of a Biosand Filter					
CONSTRUCTION & INSTALLATION	Quantity	Unit	Price	Per Unit	Cost
<b>For 1 Filter:</b>	(e.g. 3)	(e.g. litre)	(e.g. per litre)	(e.g. litre)	(=quantity X price)
<b>MATERIALS</b>					
<b>Concrete Container</b>					
Cement		bag		bag	
Sand		L		L	
Small gravel		L		L	
Large gravel		L		L	
Tubing (3')		m		m	
Tape for securing tubing etc.		m		m	
Edible oil, margarine or lard		mL		mL	
<b>Finishing the container</b>					
Soap		mL		mL	
Paint		can		can	
<b>Diffuser</b>					
Sheet metal		square m		square m	
<b>Lid</b>					
Wood		m		m	
<b>Inside the filter</b>					
Sand		L		L	
Separation gravel		L		L	
Drainage gravel		L		L	
<b>Installation</b>					
Chlorine/bleach		mL		mL	
<b>Total Materials (Hardcosts)</b>					=
<b>LABOUR</b>					
Labour - making filter		hr		hr	
Labour - finishing filter		hr		hr	
Labour - making diffuser		hr		hr	
Labour - making lid		hr		hr	
Labour - sieving		hr		hr	
Labour - washing		hr		hr	
Labour - other (e.g. crushing rock by hand)		hr		hr	
Labour - installation		hr		hr	
<b>Total Construction Labour Cost</b>					=
<b>TOTAL CONSTRUCTION COST</b>					=

e.g. = for example

## 2. Calculating the cost of transportation

Calculating the Cost of a Biosand Filter					
TRANSPORTATION					
	Quantity	Unit	Price	Per Unit	Cost
<b>For 1 Filter:</b>	(e.g. 3)	(e.g. litres)	(e.g. per litre)	(e.g. litre)	(=quantity X price)
<b>TRANSPORT</b>					
Vehicle rental or ownership		days		day	
Fuel		tank		tank	
Other costs (tolls, taxes, maintenance)					
Total Transportation Hard Costs					=
<b>LABOUR</b>					
Staff time - loading filters		hr		hr	
Staff time - transportation/driving		hr		hr	
Total Transportation Labour Cost					=
<b>TOTAL TRANSPORTATION COST</b>					=

## 3. Calculating the cost of user education

Calculating the Cost of a Biosand Filter					
USER EDUCATION					
	Quantity	Unit	Price	Per Unit	Cost
<b>For 1 Filter:</b>	(e.g. 3)	(e.g. litres)	(e.g. per litre)	(e.g. litre)	(=quantity X price)
<b>EDUCATION DURING INSTALLATION</b>					
<b>Hard Costs</b>					
Vehicle rental or ownership		days		day	
Fuel		tank		tank	
Other costs (tolls, taxes, maintenance)					
Total Education Hard Costs					=
<b>Labour</b>					
Staff time - educating users		hr		hr	
Total Education Labour Cost					=
<b>TOTAL EDUCATION COST</b>					=

e.g. = for example

## 4. Calculating the cost of follow-up

Calculating the Cost of a Biosand Filter					
FOLLOW-UP	Quantity	Unit	Price	Per Unit	Cost
<b>For 1 Filter:</b>	(e.g. 3)	(e.g. litres)	(e.g. per litre)	(e.g. litre)	(=quantity X price)
<b>VISIT 1 - Hard Costs</b>					
Vehicle rental or ownership		days		day	
Fuel		tank		tank	
Other costs (tolls, taxes, maintenance)					
Educational materials - printing					
Total Visit 1 Hard Costs					=
<b>Labour</b>					
Staff time - transportation/driving		hr		hr	
Staff time - follow-up visit		hr		hr	
Total Visit 1 Labour Cost					=
Total Visit 1 Cost					=
<b>VISIT 2 - Hard Costs</b>					
Vehicle rental or ownership		days		day	
Fuel		tank		tank	
Other costs (tolls, taxes, maintenance)					
Educational materials - printing					
Total Visit 2 Hard Costs					=
<b>Labour</b>					
Staff time - transportation/driving		hr		hr	
Staff time - follow-up visit		hr		hr	
Total Visit 2 Labour Cost					=
Total Visit 2 Cost					=
<b>VISIT 3 - Hard Costs</b>					
Vehicle rental or ownership		days		day	
Fuel		tank		tank	
Other costs (tolls, taxes, maintenance)					
Educational materials - printing					
Total Visit 3 Hard Costs					=
<b>Labour</b>					
Staff time - transportation/driving		hr		hr	
Staff time - follow-up visit		hr		hr	
Total Visit 3 Labour Cost					=
Total Visit 3 Cost					=
<b>TOTAL FOLLOW-UP COST (3 Visits)</b>					=

e.g. = for example

## 5. Calculating the total cost of a biosand filter

<b>Calculating the Cost of a Biosand Filter</b>	
TOTAL COST of a BIOSAND FILTER	
	<b>Cost</b>
<b>For 1 Filter:</b>	
<b>CONSTRUCTION &amp; INSTALLATION</b>	
Hard Costs	=
Labour	=
Sub-Total	=
<b>TRANSPORTATION</b>	
Hard Costs	=
Labour	=
Sub-Total	=
<b>EDUCATION</b>	
Hard Costs	=
Labour	=
Sub-Total	=
<b>FOLLOW-UP (3 Visits)</b>	
Hard Costs	=
Labour	=
Sub-Total	=
<b>Total Cost</b>	<b>=</b>