

# TYPES OF FILTERS

## No Filter

Using no filter allows bacteria and dirt to be injected. This is the most dangerous option and should be avoided as it can lead to:

- dirty shot (blood poisoning)
- infects, abscesses and endocarditis's
- blocked veins and capillaries
- granulomas in lungs and other organs



## Cotton Wool (~50µm)

Cotton wool is most the most commonly used filter. Try to use sterile cotton wool to prevent any chances of cotton fever.



## Filter needle tip and Sterifilt® (5µm)

The cheaper alternative to wheel filters. They are very effective at removing chalky particles from mixes. Used with: Buprenorphine, cocaine, heroin, amphetamines, most pills.



## Yellow wheel filter (0.45µm)

Yellow filters filter at 0.45µm, removing most particles. that could cause potential harm. Use yellow filters with pills or any substance that is chalky.



## Blue wheel filter (0.2µm)

Blue filters filter at 0.2µm will remove potentially all bacteria from the mix. This is the best filter you can get. Use this filter with any substance that is watery to prevent the filter from clogging like methadone.



# REMEMBER

- Always prime your filter before drawing through it to ensure effectiveness.
- Always use a new filter (filters are single use).
- Benzodiazepine (Benzos) CANNOT dissolve in water and will be filtered out. Benzos are not recommended for injecting.
- Always use safer injecting practices, This includes using sterile equipment and swabbing skin, equipment and surfaces.
- Rotate injecting sites to let each spot heal.



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YOUR GUIDE TO FILTERING

# WHY FILTER?

Filters are designed to remove out non-soluble (*do not dissolve in water*) particles and contaminates prior to injecting to help reduce the risk of infection, vein damage, blocked blood flow or other health issues.

This is especially important if you are injecting pills as they contain particles that do not dissolve and are not safe for injection, such as chalk, talc and binders. Filters for injecting are measured in microns ( $\mu\text{m}$ ). One micron is one one thousandth of a millimetre.




## TYPES OF FILTERS




**50 $\mu\text{m}$**

**DO NOT USE TAILOR MADE CIGARETTE FILTERS**  
These filters contain glass like fibres and chemicals that can damage veins and cause infections.




Sterifilts are specifically designed to fit on a 1ml syringe

**10 $\mu\text{m}$**



Yellow wheel filter are designed to attach to a barrel. They are great for filtering pills.

**0.45 $\mu\text{m}$**



Blue wheel filter are designed to attach to a barrel. They will filter out bacteria from your mix.  
\*Note they will not filter viruses like Hepatitis C or HIV.

**0.2 $\mu\text{m}$**

# USING A WHEEL FILTER

## WHAT YOU WILL NEED

- Swabs
- 2 x Barrels
- Spoon
- Cotton wool
- Sterile water
- Draw up tip
- 1ml syringe
- Wheel filter



## METHOD

### Wet the Filter

1. Draw 1-2mls of sterile water into barrel.
2. Attach wheel filter.
3. Push water out the barrel through the filter (prime). This water can go into your mix.
4. Detach filter and set aside, resting in filter packet.



### Prepare Mix

1. Clean hands, use a swab if you have no soap or hand sanitizer, Swab injecting area and any non-sterile injecting equipment, such as the spoon.
2. If using pills, crush into fine powder. Add drug to spoon with sterile water.
3. Stir mix until dissolved. The plunger from the barrel can be removed and used to stir.

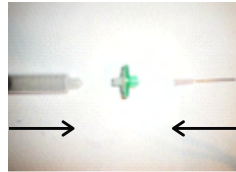


**DO NOT APPLY HEAT MIX**  
This can damage the filter

**NO FILTER WILL STOP BLOOD BORNE VIRUSES SUCH AS HEPATITIS C AND HIV**

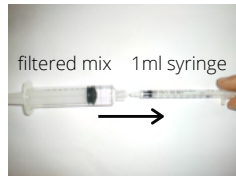
## Drawing Up

1. Add small piece of sterile cotton wool to mix.
2. Draw mix into barrel through cotton wool
3. Connect wheel filter to barrel then connect draw up tip to wheel filter.



## Filtering the Mix

1. Slow push mix through wheel filter into another barrel. The mix should be clear once filtered.
2. The mix is now ready. Draw mix out of the barrel using a 1ml syringe or add an injecting tip to the barrel containing the filtered mix.



## USING A STERIFILT®

1. Wash, sanitize or swab hands, fingers, injecting area.
2. Prepare mix (DO NOT HEAT)
3. Take Sterifilt out of packet. Do not touch filter.
4. Attach Sterifilt to the syringe. Push firmly and twist to create an air tight seal. Be careful not to prick yourself.
5. Put filter into mix. Allow to sit in mix for 5 seconds to wet the filter.
6. Draw back filter **slowly**, the mix will take a couple of seconds to enter the syringe.
7. The mix is now ready. Remove Sterifilt to inject.

