



Backflushing Manual Disc Filters

Disc filters are well known for their ability to capture and hold a high degree of debris when compared to other forms of filters such as screens. They are also easy to disassemble and clean.

In some cases people ask for a method of cleaning the disc rings without having to disassemble the unit and rinsing it manually. This can be accomplished by moving water backward through the filter and venting the flushing water to atmosphere or back into a well or pond.

The action of reversing the flow allows water to enter into the center of the ring set. This action creates downward pressure against the spring in the cone of the filter, and relaxes the individual rings. This results in some (not all) of the debris being flushed from the rings.

The quality of flushing depends on the water quality, the type of debris in the water and the condition of the rings. Sticky debris will not backflush very well, nor will small silt that may become trapped in the grooves of the discs.

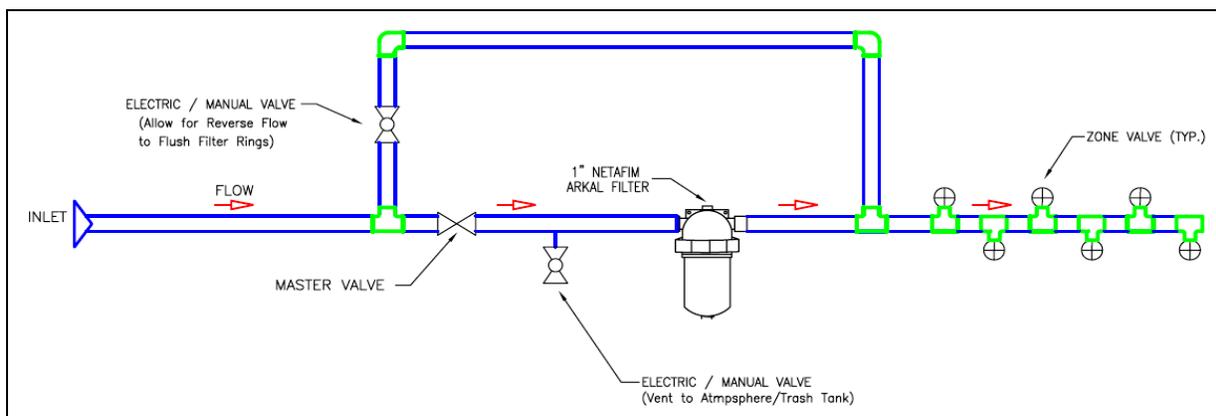
Even when manual filters are designed with some form of backflushing, the method described here does not provide a complete flushing of the rings. They will still need to be opened and cleaned as needed.

If a thorough and automatic filter backflush is desired, the Netafim family of Disc Kleen filters should be used. These filters are specially designed to provide a complete and hands-free cleaning.

The following chart outlines the amount of water and pressure needed for manual disc filter cleaning*:

Filter Size	Flushing Flow Rate	Pressure Required	Minimum Duration of Flush
3/4"	15 GPM	45 - 110 psi	10 Seconds
1" & 1 1/2" Regular	20 GPM	45 - 110 psi	15 Seconds
1" & 1 1/2" Super	35 GPM	45 - 110 psi	20 Seconds

* A pathway to vent the flushing water has to be available.



This picture illustrates piping routed around the disc filter with the addition of a master valve and 2 electric or manual valves. When the master valve is closed and the 2 additional valves are opened, water flow is directed around the filter and backward through it. The flushing water is vented out of the valve located between the master valve and the filter.