Sartofluor® PTFE Filter Cartridges
Scalable and secure performance in sterile venting
Choose Sartofluor® PTFE for optimum air filtration

The optimum means
The air filter as a barrier needs to be highly reliable under all circumstances, i.e. pressure pulses, high steaming cycles, elevated moisture content etc. That’s why we optimized our Sartofluor air filter cartridges to meet all the requirements with highest assurance levels.

Sartofluor filter cartridges fulfill all demands placed on an air filter, such as:
- Highest hydrophobicity
- High flow rates at low differential pressures
- High steam cycle lifetimes
- High mechanical and thermal strength
- Reliable and validated separation of microorganisms and bacteriophage

User-Optimized
The development of this extremely reliable, secure, „last chance“ barrier filter included the experiences of our Research and Development, engineering groups, suppliers, and especially our customers. Their input was and is our most valuable resource to find the optimum performance.

The optimum includes:
- Optimized, durable construction
- PTFE membrane
- High void volume
- Optimized selection of prefilter and support fleece
- Maximized filtration area
- Optimal pleat density

Optimum choice for sterile venting and gas applications
Specify Sartofluor cartridge systems to optimize filtration performance in sterile venting and gas applications such as:
- Sterile gas filtration of fermentor inlets
- Off-gas filters downstream of fermentors or bioreactors
- Sterilizing vent filters on autoclaves and lyophylizers (freeze dryer)
- Sterile vent filters on product tanks
- Sterile air supply for service gases, such as filling lines in blow-fill-seal machines

Sartofluor cartridges are available in the optimum range of pore sizes – 0.45 µm, 0.2 µm and 0.1 µm.
Scale up with a complete product line for air filtration

Dependable performance at every scale
Our scale-up philosophy does not stop at liquid filtration. Especially in air filtration, with its variety of applications and demands, different filter sizes are essential. Sartofluor filter cartridges are available from 300 m² to 2.3 cm² for single filter elements, which means you can effectively filter air from small volume bioreactor to seed and large scale fermentor venting, as well as tank venting.

The right hydrophobicity
If the filter membrane is not hydrophobic enough, moisture can accumulate and microorganisms may grow. A highly hydrophobic membrane can eliminate this danger along with any risk of water logging. Sartofluor membranes are constructed of PTFE. It provides more than twice the hydrophobicity of polypropylene or PVDF.

Optimized construction adds savings
Experience, testing and customer feedback have guided the evolution of Sartofluor cartridges. For example, membrane pleatings and layers of filter fleece have been chosen to avoid water logging. Attention to detail at this level means you realize added savings in low blow down times.

Materials of construction

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Prefilter Layer</th>
<th>Polypropylene</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Membrane Filter</td>
<td>PTFE</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Drainage Layer</td>
<td>Polypropylene</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Outercage</td>
<td>Polypropylene</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Inner Core</td>
<td>Polypropylene</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Endcaps</td>
<td>Polypropylene</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>O-Rings</td>
<td>Silicone*</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

* EPDM and Fluoroelastomer are available

Materials of construction

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Capsules 150</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2 Mini cartridges</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3 Standard cartridges</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4 MaxiCaps</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5 MidiCaps</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6 Sartofluor Junior</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Top Performance...  
even after 150 steam sterilization cycles

Mechanical strength and optimized construction
We've tested Sartofluor cartridges to 134°C and they all withstood 150 steam cycles. No loss in integrity or performance. Or in PTFE hydrophobicity. No loss in flow rate. Plus, optimized Sartofluor cartridge construction allows differential pressures up to 0.5 bar at 134°C. This exceptional performance has been confirmed by Bacterial Challenge testing.

Validated performance for assured security
Sartofluor cartridges fulfill all known current regulatory requirements, for example USP, cGMP and FDA. This is documented in our Validation Guidelines for Sartofluor filter cartridges. Besides the validation, Sartofluor cartridges undergo a stringent performance qualification procedure:
- They’re pressure-pulsation tested for 5000 cycles at 5 bar differential pressure.
- They’re steam-cycle evaluated for 150 cycles at 134°C for 30 min; then 11 additional cycles over 7 hours.
- Their flow rate and water penetration are measured only after defined steam cycling.
- They’re tested at maximum allowable differential pressure at a full range of temperatures.
- Their blow-down time is measured after steam sterilization and Water Intrusion Testing.
- They pass extractables tests done using RP-HPLC, GC-MS and FTIR.
- They pass phage challenge tests that last as long as 7 days.

Differential Pressure Limits at given temperatures

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>°C</th>
<th>In the Direction of Filtration</th>
<th>Opposite the Direction of Filtration</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>20</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>1.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>121</td>
<td>1.5</td>
<td>0.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>134</td>
<td>0.5</td>
<td>0.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>140</td>
<td>0.5</td>
<td>0.5</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

In air filtration applications, high flow rates result in lower energy costs and help to maximize safety – for example, for tank, venting. Sartofluor cartridges are optimized to maintain high flow rates, even in challenging process conditions like condensate build-up in steam-venting or elevated moisture content. No cartridge does more to control life-cycle costs. No cartridge system is more cost-effective.

The Reason: Sartofluor PTFE membrane and support fleece are extremely hydrophobic and feature optimized pleat density.

The Result: effective drainage of condensate and no water blockage.
Integrity Testing

Why the biopharmaceutical industry chose the Sartorius Water Intrusion Test (WIT).

Sartorius Stedim Biotech was the first to develop and validate an in-place integrity test for hydrophobic air filter cartridges—the WIT.

It surpasses other integrity tests because:

- It utilizes water as a test medium instead of a solvent water mixture.
- It can be performed in place, after steam sterilization.
- The WIT tests the complete system housing, O-rings, valves and filter elements including filter integrity and hydrophobicity.
- No downstream manipulations are required.
- Contamination by solvents or oil aerosols is avoided. The WIT can be fully automated, or it may be performed manually or semi-automatically.
- It is directly correlated to the ASTM Bacteria Challenge Test.

The test pressure for the WIT, at 2.5 bar (36 psi), is far lower than the Water Penetration Pressure, which is around 4.5 bar (67 psi) for a Sartofluor (Sartofluor 0.2 µm) PTFE filter cartridge.

The Simplicity of the WIT Procedure.

The upstream side of the filter housing is filled with water and the air volume above the water column is measured. Afterwards a test pressure of 2.5 bar is applied and the system stabilized for 10 min. During the 10 min test time, the pressure drop is measured, which happens due to the intrusion of water into the first layers of the membrane. With the measured volume and pressure drop and the known test time, the intrusion is calculated and compared to the maximum allowable intrusion quoted in the validation guides.
Sales and Service Contacts
For further contacts, visit www.sartorius-stedim.com

Europe

Germany
Sartorius Stedim Biotech GmbH
August-Spindler-Strasse 11
37079 Gottingen
Phone +49.551.308.0
Fax +49.551.308.3289

Sartorius Stedim Systems GmbH
Robert-Bosch-Strasse 5 – 7
34302 Guuxhagen
Phone +49.5665.407.0
Fax +49.5665.407.2200

France
Sartorius Stedim FMT S.A.S.
ZI Les Paluds
Avenue de Jouques – CS 91051
13781 Aubagne Cedex
Phone +33.442.845600
Fax +33.442.845619

Sartorius Stedim France SAS
ZI Les Paluds
Avenue de Jouques – CS 71058
13781 Aubagne Cedex
Phone +33.442.845600
Fax +33.442.846545

Austria
Sartorius Stedim Austria GmbH
Franzosengraben 12
1030 Vienna
Phone +43.1.7965763.18
Fax +43.1.796576344

Belgium
Sartorius Stedim Belgium N.V.
Leuvensesteenweg, 248/B
1800 Vilvoorde
Phone +32.2.756.06.80
Fax +32.2.756.06.81

Hungary
Sartorius Stedim Hungária Kft.
Kagyló u. 5
2092 Budakeszi
Phone +36.23.457.227
Fax +36.23.457.147

Italy
Sartorius Stedim Italy S.p.A.
Via dell’Antella, 76/A
50012 Antella-Bagno a Ripoli (FI)
Phone +39.055.63.40.41
Fax +39.055.63.40.526

Netherlands
Sartorius Stedim Netherlands B.V.
Phone +31.30.60.25.080
Fax +31.30.60.25.099
filtratie.nederland@sartorius-stedim.com

Poland
Sartorius Stedim Poland Sp. z o.o.
ul. Wrzesinska 70
62-025 Kostrzyn
Phone +48.61.647.38.40
Fax +48.61.879.25.04

Russia
LLC “Sartorius ICR”
Uralskaya str. 4, Lit. B
199155, Saint-Petersburg
Phone +7.812.327.5.327
Fax +7.812.327.5.323

Spain
Sartorius Stedim Spain SA
C/Isabel Colbrand 10,
Oficina 70
Polígono Industrial de Fuencarral
28050 Madrid
Phone +34.90.2110935
Fax +34.91.3589623

Switzerland
Sartorius Stedim Switzerland AG
Ringstrasse 24 a
8317 Tagelswangen
Phone +41.52.354.36.36
Fax +41.52.354.36.46

UK
Sartorius Stedim UK Ltd.
Longmead Business Centre
Blenheim Road, Epsom
Surrey KT19 9 QQ
Phone +44.1372.737159
Fax +44.1372.726171

America

USA
Sartorius Stedim North America Inc.
5 Orville Drive, Suite 200
Bohemia, NY 11716
Toll-Free +1.800.368.7178
Fax +1.631.256.4253

Argentina
Sartorius Argentina S.A.
Int. A. Ávalos 2451
B1605ECS Munro
Buenos Aires
Phone +54.11.4721.0505
Fax +54.11.4762.2333

Brazil
Sartorius do Brasil Ltda
Avenida Senador Vergueiro 2962
São Bernardo do Campo
CEP 09600-000 – SP – Brasil
Phone +55.11.4362.8900
Fax +55.11.4362.8901

Mexico
Sartorius de México S.A. de C.V.
Circuito Circunvalación Poniente
No. 149
Ciudad Satélite
53100, Estado de México
México
Phone +52.5555.62.1102
Fax +52.5555.62.2942

Asia | Pacific

Australia
Sartorius Stedim Australia Pty. Ltd.
Unit 5, 7-11 Rodeo Drive
Dandenong South Vic 3175
Phone +61.3.8762.1800
Fax +61.3.8762.1828

China
Sartorius Stedim Biotech (Beijing) Co. Ltd.
No. 33 Yu’an Road
Airport Industrial Park Zone B
Shunyi District, Beijing 101300
Phone +86.10.80426516
Fax +86.10.80426580

India
Sartorius Stedim India Pvt. Ltd.
#609/2-69/3, NH 48, Jakkasandra
Nelamangala Tq
562 123 Bangalore, India
Phone +91.80.4350.5250
Fax +91.80.4350.5253

Japan
Sartorius Stedim Japan K.K.
4th Fl., Daiwa Shinagawa North Bldg.
8-11, Kita-Shinagawa 1-chome Shinagawa-ku, Tokyo, 140-0001 Japan
Phone +81.3.4331.4300
Fax +81.3.4331.4301

Malaysia
Sartorius Stedim Malaysia Sdn. Bhd.
Lot L3-E-3B, Enterprise 4 Technology Park Malaysia
Bukit Jalil
57000 Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia
Phone +603.8996.0622
Fax +603.8996.0755

South Korea
Sartorius Korea Biotech Co., Ltd.
8th Floor, Solid Space 8/D, PanGyoYek-Ro 220, Bundang-Gu
SeongNam-Si, GyeongGi-Do, 463–400
Phone +82.31.622.5700
Fax +82.31.622.5799

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