

What Fits a 10-Inch Filter Housing?

The most useful 30 seconds of plumbing knowledge you'll ever get.

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The compatibility chart: every common cartridge type, what fits where, what doesn't.

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A "10-inch housing" takes any cartridge that is **10 inches long and 2.5 inches in diameter**. That's it. That's the whole standard. It's the AA battery of water filtration — one size, hundreds of manufacturers, zero lock-in. If your system uses these housings, you can buy filters from anyone, forever.

What fits (the full menu)

Cartridge type	What it does	Typical change interval
Spun PP sediment (1–10 micron)	Catches sand, rust, silt — protects everything downstream	6 months
Pleated sediment	Same job, washable, higher flow	6–12 months
GAC (granular activated carbon)	Chlorine, taste, odor	6–12 months
CTO carbon block (0.5–10 micron)	Chlorine + fine sediment in one cartridge	6–12 months
Phosphate / scale inhibitor	Reduces scale in hard-water areas	6 months

Resin / specialty cartridges	Iron, tannin, specific contaminants — match to your water	Varies
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Any of these, from any brand, drops into any standard 10" × 2.5" housing. Mix and match freely — stages are independent of each other.

What does NOT fit

- **RO membranes.** Membranes are a different standard entirely (usually "1812": 1.8" diameter × 12" long) and live in their own membrane housing. Don't try to cram one into a pre-filter housing.
- **Proprietary quick-change cartridges.** Twist-lock, snap-in, brand-specific shapes — these fit exactly one brand's system. That's the point.
- **Big Blue / 20-inch cartridges.** Whole-house housings (4.5" × 10" or 4.5" × 20") are a different, larger standard. Great for whole-house; not interchangeable with under-sink 10-inch.

How to check your system in 30 seconds

1. Open a housing and pull the cartridge (close the feed valve first, and keep a towel handy).
2. Read the label — most cartridges print their dimensions. **10" × 2.5"** means universal.
3. No label? Measure it. Ten inches long, two-and-a-half across = universal.
4. If it twist-locks, snaps in, or has a brand-specific shape with no dimensions printed — proprietary.

Micron ratings, in one paragraph

"Micron" = how small a particle the filter catches. A 5-micron sediment filter catches most visible grit; a 0.5-micron carbon block catches much finer stuff. Lower number = finer filtration, but also clogs faster. For city water, 5-micron sediment → carbon block is the standard, boring, correct combo. Don't overthink it.

Frequently asked questions

What size is a standard 10-inch filter cartridge?

10 inches long × 2.5 inches in diameter. Any cartridge with those dimensions fits any standard 10-inch housing, regardless of brand.

Do RO membranes fit in 10-inch housings?

No. RO membranes follow a different standard (usually 1812 size) and have their own membrane housing. The 10-inch standard covers pre-filters and post-filters only.

Can I mix filter brands in one system?

Yes. With standard 10" × 2.5" housings, stages are independent — a Brand A sediment filter works fine upstream of a Brand B carbon block. Match sizes and change intervals.

How do I know if my system uses standard 10-inch housings?

Pull one cartridge and measure it, or read its label — most print the dimensions. 10" × 2.5" means universal. Twist-lock or snap-in cartridges with no standard dimensions are probably proprietary.

Keep reading

→ [How Much Do RO Replacement Filters Really Cost?](#)

→ [How to Avoid Filter Lock-In Before You Buy](#)

→ [Universal vs Brand-Name Filters](#)

For general information only. Dimensions refer to the residential 10" × 2.5" standard; always confirm against your own housings before ordering. We don't cure disease; we filter water.

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