

# Sand vs Glass Pool Filter Media, Which is Better?

*The common sand filter for pool filtration has been used for years and is a staple in the pool industry*

For years, the standard media that goes in a sand filter is . . . you guessed it SAND. Over the years there have been changes, fads, improvements; however, the one that seems to have stuck is recycled glass media.

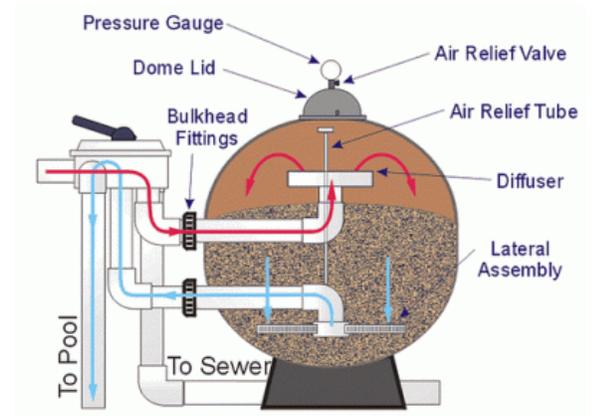
## Cleaning Ability

Sand will filter to roughly 30 microns. Some glass media manufacturers state that the glass will filter down to 5 - 10 microns.

*Slight edge to Glass Media*

## Price

A swimming pool services company will sell sand for roughly \$10 and glass media for \$25 - \$40; both per 50 lb. bags. *Glass media since it is finer will only require roughly 50% of the filter capacity to be filled.* Doing the math, *Sand is more affordable.*



## Longevity

Sand media needs to be changed out every 4-6 years depending on the water and debris load that is going through the filter. Glass media claims to last forever, which I doubt, however we have seen glass media system that are over 10 years old and still performing. *Glass Media is far superior . . .*

## Backwashing

Sand will require longer backwashing to clean the dirt out of the system as there is more volume of media to go through. Glass media will backwash quicker as the material is lighter and less dense, so it floats better, resulting in **faster cleaning**. Faster cleaning also means **less water usage**. *Glass Media is the better option for ease of backwashing.*

## Which is Better?

Glass seems to be the winner in all basic categories except in price, which makes sense. **Better product = more money.**

- Crushed glass media lasts about **2-3 times as long** as sand filter media.
- Sand media needs to be changed out every 3-5 years depending on the water and debris load that is going through the filter. Sand will require longer backwashing to clean the dirt out of the system as there is more volume of media to go through.
- Glass media will backwash quicker as the material is lighter and less dense, so it floats resulting in faster cleaning.
- Crushed glass has much better efficiency as well.
- Sand will filter to about **30 microns**.
- Crushed Glass will filter down to roughly **5-10 microns**.

