

## **Laundering Needlefelt Filter Bags**

The process of laundering Needlefelt filter bags is, in general, not recommended, but where it is considered essential or useful the following guidelines may be considered. It should be noted that the success of a washing process will be dependent on the nature of the product being filtered.

Very rarely will a washing process restore the filter fabric to its original specification and more normally the fabric performance will be degraded relative to a new bag, leading to a shorter period before blinding and failure.

Before commencing the washing process all rings and fittings should be checked to ensure that they will be unaffected by the washing process.

Before removal of the bags from the filter unit, if practical, operate the cleaning mechanism of the filter "off line" to remove as much dust as possible within the contained environment of the filter.

- Upon removal from the filter unit, initial cleaning should be with an industrial vacuum cleaner fitted with a soft (non-abrasive) brush head to remove all loose surface dust.
- Once all loose dust has been removed immerse in warm water (do not use solvents, aqueous washing only is recommended) with minimum agitation, using a non-ionic surfactant. Once all the dust has been released from the fabric, extensive rinsing is suggested to ensure that all the dust is removed before drying.
- Mechanical treatment should be kept to a minimum to avoid surface damage to the felt, which can lead to increased fabric thickness and air permeability.
- Drying should be by air at ambient temperature, without tumbling. Avoid the use of industrial dryers, which can cause excessive fiber shrinkage and fiber compaction. Refitting to the filter unit and running without dust may be an option on certain types of filter units to effect drying.

## **Membrane Fabrics on Needlefelt Substrate**

Particular care should be exercised with this type of bag to ensure that the membrane surface is not damaged – extra guidance for this type of bag:

- Do not put bags in any type of industrial washing machine or any type of machine that uses an agitator (agitation may cause creases that will damage the membrane).
- Soak the bags in a trough or hose them down while still in the collector using a standard low-pressure water hose. Use an indirect water spray.
- Run fans until the bags are dry.