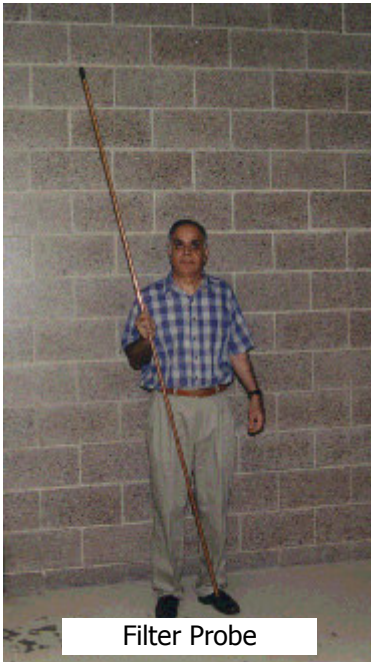


Filter Probe

The filter probe consists of approximately 15 feet of 3/8" copper tubing with both ends sealed shut. This inexpensive tool can be used to determine the condition of the filter underdrain.



During backwash, the flow is reversed to clean the filter. The weight of the media is counter balanced by the upward flow of the water so that media behaves just like a liquid. This is called media fluidization. In a normal filter, the filter probe should experience no media resistance during backwash. Any indication of resistance is a sign of nonuniform backwash flow and a partially or totally blocked underdrain. By systematically probing the entire filter bed, the condition of the underdrain can be determined. The probe can also be used to identify areas of support gravel mounding. During backwash, one can measure the distance from the backwash troughs to the top of the gravel. Comparing this distance with that in the plans will indicate if the support gravel has mounded.



Winner of the 1996 Minnesota Section
AWWA Gimmicks and Gadgets Award.

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