

TECHNICAL BULLETIN

NUMBER

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Subject: Coffee Filter Failures

Date: June 30, 1999

Applies to: All Coffee Brewers

Coffee Filters may fail in different ways. They may fall over or the coffee grounds may be getting over the top of the filter paper. Brewer and dispenser performance may be affected.

1) **Size:** The filter used must match the brew basket

Solution: Consult the manual, attached chart, or FETCO for the proper size filter paper for this basket.

2) **Water.** Softened water, from a salt bed type water softener, can cause problems by gumming the paper coffee filter, and causing the grounds to overflow the brew basket. Sometimes only the hot water supply line is softened.

Solution: Switch to a non softened potable water line. All beverage equipment works better and lasts longer with a taste and odor inline filter before the equipment. For new installations, thoroughly flush water lines before startup.

3) **Dosage.** Too little coffee, or rarely, too much can cause the paper filter to fail.

Solution: Specialty Coffee Association (SCAA) recommends 3.25 to 4.25 ounces of ground coffee to 64 fluid oz of water. Always spread the coffee evenly in the filter. Optimal dose may require experimentation & taste testing.

4) **Grind.** Too fine a grind can slow the water travel through the filter resulting in filter failure.

Solution: try setting grinder to a coarser grind setting.

5) **Whole bean quality.** When very freshly roasted, beans which are then ground and brewed may outgas on contact with hot brew water, resulting in foaming.

Solution: FETCO coffee brewing machines with a "pre wetting" feature, to pre wet the coffee bed prior to brewing. Or, grind these beans and wait to brew. This requires experimentation and taste testing to find the optimal time.

6) **Filter paper quality.** Filter papers are manufactured in various thickness and paper weights. Not all filters react the same way to individual coffees. Coffee/Tea and iced tea filters have a more "closed" or tighter paper. These filters might feel smoother and be more transparent than a coffee filter. They may be "economically" priced.

Solution: Try a different quality filter paper

7) **Combination of factors.** Some applications may have several problems.

Solution: Brew Basket Clips, Contact FETCO.

Coffee Brewer System & Basket	Size of Filter	Coffee Brewer System & Basket	Size of Filter
CBS 30s (Plastic basket)	9¾" X 4½"	CBS 51 H10 Standard	13" X 5"
CBS 30s (SS basket)	13" X 5"	CBS 51 H10 Optional Brew Basket	15" X 5"
CBS 60s	20" X 8"	CBS 11&12&50s (incl. H15+H20)	15" X 5"
CBS 60s (Using ½ Batch Brew Basket)	18½" X 7½"	CBS 11&12&50s (incl. H15+H20) (Using ½ Batch Brew Basket)	13" X 5"
CBS 18	11¼" X 3¾"	CBS 21	15" X 5"
		CBS 70s	23" X 9"

Coffee Filters are always measured while flattened, across the widest part of the edges of the circle (large number) and the inner circle that would be the bottom of the brew basket (small number).