GT1-70 | Portable RO System

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WARNING:
For correct operation of this appliance, it is essential to observe the manufacturer's instructions.

I. Before You Begin
Quick Connect Fittings: If you come across a push-fit fitting, you need to firmly push the tubing into the opening until you feel a “click” which signifies that the tubing has pushed through the internal O-ring and is seated correctly. If leaking occurs, it may be due to roughly cut tubing OR the tubing is not pushed in far enough. To remove tubing from push-fit fittings, depress the floating collet (shown in below photo), then pull the tubing out.

NOTE: You will need to remove the Blue plug from the end of the outlet line marked “Drinking Water”. Use the above steps to remove this plug. Do not discard the plug as it is used to seal the drinking water line between use to prevent bacterial contamination.

II. Important Note:
Laws and regulations prevent us from wet-testing these filtration systems prior to sending them out. Therefore, during assembly of these systems they are not pressure tested so it is possible to have a small leak in a connection (which is simply fixed by re-seating the tubing or tightening a fitting). As the filters are dry packed, the systems will require flushing before first use – Our systems purposely have the inlet filter disconnected from the membrane so that you can do an initial flush of the pre filters to prevent fouling the membrane with carbon fines. When first flushing the unit – remember that this tubing is disconnected and should be aimed into a sink/bucket during the flushing process. When flushing is finished – re-connect the tubing to the inlet of the membrane housing (Screw Cap End).

Reverse Osmosis Filtration
I. Overview
The Reverse Osmosis Membrane is the workhorse of any RO system. It is constructed from a wrapped semi-permeable membrane material that uses pressure to separate impurities such as ions, minerals and other larger molecules from the water, carrying them to waste.

*Reverse Osmosis membranes do not have a litre Capacity for filter replacements due to the variables that can make the filter life vary significantly. This is mostly due to the water quality. The most accurate way to test a RO membrane for effectiveness is to use a TDS Meter. TDS meters measure the total dissolved solids in ppm in the water. To test your membrane, get a baseline reading out of your tap (unfiltered water) and then compare that to a reading directly off the membrane (disconnect the tube before it goes into the post filter cartridge). You can expect to get a difference of approx. 90-98% between the readings which indicate that the membrane is functioning correctly. If this % is beginning to drop below 90% it suggests that the RO membrane requires replacement

II. Feed Water Conditions
- Pressure: 50 - 100 psi
- TDS: <1,000 mg/L
- Hardness: <250mg/L
- Iron: <0.02
- Manganese: <0.01
- Temperature: 1°C - 26°C
Installing Inlet Fitting

I. Kitchen Diverter Valve
This fitting adapts to most kitchen taps that have either a 22mm Male Thread or a 24mm Female Thread. There are some taps on the market that are not compatible with diverter valves so please check before purchase. Firstly, unscrew the aerator from your tap. If this exposes a male thread, simply screw the diverter valve straight onto the tap (ensure the black rubber washer is inside the valve). Usually hand tightening is sufficient but gripping tools may be required depending on the tap. NOTE: The knurled section of the diverter valve (top swivel ring) is the part that will tighten, you must tighten this to the tap, not the whole valve. You will know if the diverter has sealed on the washer if you will be able to swivel the valve from side to side but you should feel some resistance. If the valve swivels freely and does not feel secure – you may not have added the black washer, the tap thread may be too long (in which case, you can double up using the existing washer from the aerator you just removed) or it has not been tightened enough at the knurled section. If you need to use the thread adaptor to install to a female threaded tap, install the adaptor into the diverter valve first, then install it onto the tap.

The Diverter Valve is designed to replace your existing aerator so should be left installed permanently. Below is an example graphic. The tubing is usually supplied connected to the valve but there are instructions below showing this process if required.

II. ¾” Garden Tap Adaptor
The garden tap adaptor is simple, just screw it onto an outdoor tap ¾” thread

III. Washing Machine Block Adaptor
Similar principle to the Kitchen Diverter Valve but this time, you firstly turn off the cold water to your washing machine (lay a towel down for water leakage). Using either your hands or a pair of gripping tools, slowly unscrew the washing machine hose which will begin to leak water due to static pressure. Install the laundry block (large Chrome Fitting) in place (ensure that the washers are used so it seals). If you find that the thread on the adaptor is not long enough – remove one of the blocks and steal the washer (only 1 block is required, 2 are supplied for this reason) – doubling up the washer is usually enough to provide an adequate seal. You do not need to use thread tape to do the above steps. Once the block is securely installed, use standard white plumbers’ tape to wrap the male thread of the small inline valve supplied with the adaptor – you will need to wrap around 8 – 10 times. Carefully screw the valve into the female port on the adaptor using a shifter/spanner until firmly installed. While the valve is in the ‘off’ positing (90° angle to the water flow), slowly turn the cold water back on and check for leaks.
IV. Connecting Tubing Using Compression Fittings

Compression fittings are used in both the Kitchen Diverter Valve & the Washing Machine Adaptor. Rather than an o-ring seal with teeth (like the quick connect fittings), compression fittings crimp the tubing around a stem to seal the water, the compression ring then prevents the tubing from being removed. Inserting the tubing over the stem of the compression fitting can sometimes be difficult as the tubing needs to stretch over it, if you are having trouble, you can run the end of the tubing under warm water (not hot) to help soften the tubing. The below diagram demonstrates how this it to be installed.

System Installation/Start-Up

I. Pre-Flushing

As previously mentioned above, the portable units are assembled with the inlet filter disconnected from the membrane to allow pre-flushing. To pre-flush the inlet filter, firstly plug the tubing joining the inlet valve to the inlet port of the system. Turn on the inlet feed water to maximum, this will flush the pre filter at high pressure to clear out any carbon fines. The water will run black and cloudy for a few moments, shut off the tap and give the filter a shake (To stir up the media) and repeat a few times until the water runs consistently clear.

Note: This process can also be done to the other inline filters in the system, for example the alkaline filters. It is recommended (but not required) to remove each filter (1 at a time so you don’t lose track of filter position) and repeat the above step to clear the fines out of each filter. Flushing filters directly off the mains pressure will greatly decrease the flushing time at the initial start-up stage.

II. Tubing Connections

Following the above flushing process, check your systems fittings and tubing to ensure everything looks sound; there are no kinks, damaged fittings or tubing that is not plugged in. Connect the inlet filter to the inlet side of the membrane (screw cap end). You should have 2 lengths of tubing that are only connected at one end, these lines will be your drain line (waste water) which is connected to the inline valve marked ‘Drain Line’ of Flow 200/300/400. The other line will be the drinking water line which is the finished product water. Once all tubes are accounted for and everything is in order, start-up can commence.

III. Initial Start-Up

For the first run, allow both the waste and drinking water lines to flow to waste into a sink. Turn on the inlet water to the system on full pressure/flow. The Drain line will begin to flow almost straight away which is normal, you may notice some slight discolouration. The drinking water line will take longer to begin flowing, this is due to the water slowly making its way through the membrane filling the filter cannisters as it goes. 3 Stage systems generally start flowing within a few minutes where the 6 stage units can take over 5 minutes
for the water to make its way through the unit. This will only happen on first use until the system is wetted, additional start ups should begin flowing relatively quickly from when the inlet it turned on.

If you have completed flushing of ALL inline filters as mentioned in the Pre-Flushing Section, you will only need to run your filter system for about 30 – 60 minutes before it is ok to be used. If you did not pre-flush the post membrane filters, you will need to let the unit run for a few hours to adequately flush the filters. This is because mains pressure flushed quickly, but if you run water post membrane, it is much slower and does not stir up the filters as vigorously.

If you are using a system that has a post alkaline filter, you may notice the pH of the water will be very high (9.5 – 10.5) while the system is new. This is normal and will slowly reduce with further flushing. High Alkaline Systems create hydrogen which will show a very high pH (10 +/-) when it is initially filtered which is normal, once you let the water sit for a period of time the hydrogen will vent and the pH will begin to lower. pH and Alkalinity are different things.

IV. Using the System
Once the filters have settled and it is ready for use, run the drain line into the sink/drain. Your drinking water tube will then run into a container or tank to fill with fresh filtered water. It is recommended to keep the container you are filling in a water safe area – for example on the sink top in case of spillage (or more commonly – if it overflows because you forget you turned it on) so you don’t come back to a flooded room. A handy tip is to use a timer the first time you use the unit and note how long it takes to fill your desired storage container.

V. After Use & Storage
When the system is no longer in use, replace the blue plug back into the drinking water line to prevent bacteria. The drain line can be left open as there is no chance of backflow or contamination on this line. The system can then be stored away in a cabinet – if you have a plastic container or tub to put it in it is ideal to prevent any water leaks.

VI. Long Periods of no use
If the system has been in storage for longer than a few days, it is best to run the unit for 15 minutes before collecting the water. Bacterial contamination is not usually an issue with intermittent use but is possible after over a month of storage. If there are any smells, tastes or changes to the water quality it is best to replace the filter cartridges and start fresh to avoid any possible issues.

Maintenance
I. Sanitation
Due to the ‘open circuit’ nature of the portable systems, it is possible for bacterial contamination to occur over time. Tubing may need to be sanitised or replaced along with the fittings.

The membrane housing (Which is one of the only parts that doesn’t get replaced) can be cleaned using warm soapy water and then soaked in diluted HydroSil-ULTRA with water. Rinse off the excess HydroSil and then re-connect.

II. Replacement Parts
As mentioned above, tubing and fittings should be periodically replaced to ensure the system remains clean and functional. There is no set time frame for these items to be replaced, rather you can monitor them ongoing and if they appear to be at their end of life, change them. As a general guideline, Tubing (inlet, outlet and drain) should be replaced every 2 years. Fittings should be replaced every 3 years (due to wear and tear).

III. Replacement Filters
As portable systems are made up from predominantly inline filter cartridges, when you replace the filters you are getting almost a completely new ‘system’ as only the tubing and fittings + some other things remain. Filters have a varying life time but generally can be replaced with the following principle; Pre filters (Pre-Membrane) every 6 months. Post Filters (Post-Membrane) Every 12 months. The membrane itself has a largely varying life time. It may last anywhere between 1 and 4 years depending on usage, water quality and age.
IV. Testing Filters

Reverse Osmosis membranes have a variance in their filter life and this is affected by several things including water quality, usage, temperature and filter maintenance. As they are the workhorse of the system, they are the most important filters to monitor and keep maintained.

To measure the effectiveness of the RO membrane you will need a TDS/EC test meter. Draw a sample of tap water (to get your base reading), then collect a sample of water directly off the membrane outlet (before it goes through any other filters). This is your ‘pure’ water. To calculate the membrane effectiveness, you will need to subtract the percentage of contaminant reduction from the feed water. E.g. Feed Water 200mg/L TDS – RO Membrane removes 97% (+/-) Therefore, 200 – 97% = 6mg/L. Factors can influence the final TDS of the water and it will depend upon what is in the feed water to begin with. A membrane is deemed to be ‘expired’ if the overall reduction rate is <90% (as a general rule). To apply this to the above example, 200 – 90% = 20mg/L. So, if your test reading was approaching 20mg/L or higher, it would be time to change the membrane.

Troubleshooting

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Problem</th>
<th>Possible Cause</th>
<th>Solution</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Water Leaking Between fitting and tubing.</td>
<td>Unseated Tube</td>
<td>Check all tubing connections by firmly pushing them into the fitting. Check that there are no kinks or any obvious issues. If the problem persists, remove the tubing and check for a clean cut with no burs. Push the tubing back in and try again. If this does not work please contact customer support.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Water Leaking Between Fitting &amp; Filter</td>
<td>Fitting not tight enough / Insufficient Thread Tape / Damaged Fitting or Filter</td>
<td>If the fitting appears to be not fully tightened, gradually tighten the fitting to see if this fixes the leak. If this does not work, remove the fitting and check for any signs of damage either on the fitting or the female port of the housing. If there are no obvious signs of damage, apply white plumbers’ tape. Use 6 rounds for 1/8” fittings (membrane housing fittings) and 8 rounds for all other ¼” fittings.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Water Is Leaking from My Diverter Valve</td>
<td>1. Damaged/Missing Washer 2. Not Tight Enough 3. Thread is too Short</td>
<td>1. Check the diverter valve to see if the washer is inside, if it is damaged it may need replacing – this is a common size washer and can be purchased from most hardware/plumbing stores. 2. If the diverter valve is loose (or you can easily swivel the fitting without resistance, the fitting is not tightened enough. It may feel like you can’t tighten it anymore and it just keeps spinning but if you use a gripping tool (multi grips) to grab the collar of the fitting and use your hand to hold the valve itself steady, you will be able to further tighten the valve. The valve is tight enough when you feel light to moderate</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
### The unit is not producing any water?

| 1. Water Supply is off or disconnected. |
| 2. Pre-Filter has a blockage |
| 3. Insufficient Water Pressure |
| 4. Blue Plug Still Installed |

1. Turn on the water supply and ensure there are no obstructions to the water flow. 
2. Disconnect the tube between the membrane and pre-filter (like the pre-flushing instructions) and run water at full pressure to see if water comes out of the filter. – If the water does not come out (or is very weak pressure) the filter may need to be changed. 
3. Reverse Osmosis requires 50psi (Minimum) to operate – 70psi+ is ideal. If you have lower than 50psi pressure this unit may not be suitable for you. Low Pressure Membranes are available for an additional charge that will work down to 20psi. 
4. Remove the blue plug from the drinking water line.

### Water is coming out slowly

**Reverse Osmosis**

RO filtration is a slow process, depending on the system you have purchased, you will only get about 8 – 12L of water per hour.

### I am getting much more waste water than filtered water

| 1. Water Pressure |
| 2. Water Quality |
| 3. Blockage |

1. Our units are designed to run at approx. 1:1 – 1:1.5 waste water ratio at 70 psi. If your pressure is lower than 70 psi, the production rate may decrease and cause more drain water than filtered water. 
2. If your inlet water quality is poor and contains higher salts and hardness the filter may produce less water than the specified amount.
3. If you have good pressure, and average water quality it is possible there is a small blockage somewhere in the system. Try to follow the water flow along the system, disconnecting 1 tube at a time to try and pinpoint where the water is ‘stopping’

### High pH Reading

| 1. Alkaline Filter |
| 2. GAC Filter |
| 3. Insufficient Testing Equipment |

1. Alkaline Filters are designed to increase the pH of the water. When the filter is new it will be high but will soon settle to the advertised levels after adequate flushing.
1. If you have a post GAC filter (Carbon), this will naturally increase the pH of the water. pH is the measure of Hydrogen in the water and this hydrogen will vent off the water if you leave it to stand and the pH will then drop back down to the normal level.

2. pH testing equipment can range from a cheap test pen right up to lab grade equipment. Before coming to a conclusion on pH issues, it is best to ensure the equipment used to measure the pH of the RO water is of high standards and suitable for reading pH levels in low EC water (i.e. The guy at the pool shop is not going to cut it). We have access to high quality testing equipment and frequently test our units and conduct research. If you feel that there is an issue with your pH, please contact us.

### Strange taste to the water (New System)

1. High Alkaline Filter
2. Residue
3. Contamination

1. If you are using an alkaline filter system, the unit requires adequate flushing before first use. Usually all taste is gone within a week of use. This taste is normal and in most cases is your body adjusting to the high pH water (which some people can describe as a slight metallic taste).
2. The filters are dry packed, the carbons, alkaline filters will have ‘fines’ on them as they are granular medias, this will go away with flushing. The membrane has a food grade preserve inside it to prevent contamination during storage, this will also flush away quickly.
3. Bacterial contamination is highly unlikely, but not impossible. If there is a strong ‘foul smell’ or organic taste to the water, it is possible that there is some form of contamination. Contact us straight away so we can rectify (or diagnose) the problem if there is one present.

### The TDS Is Higher than the inlet water (or the same).

1. New Filter
2. Alkaline Filter

1. While filters are new, it is normal for the TDS to be elevated while the system is flushing. Continue flushing the system & contact support if the high TDS persists.
3. Expired Filters
4. Mixed Up Drain Line and Drinking Line

2. Alkaline filters will naturally increase the TDS of the water, especially when new. If you have low TDS water already, it is possible for the TDS level out of the alkaline filter to be higher than your inlet water. This is because you are adding minerals back into the water therefore increasing the TDS and alkalinity.

3. If the filters have not been changed as per the recommendations, it is likely that the increased TDS is due to the filters needing replacing.

4. This is common as sometimes the lines may be mixed up. Make sure that the tubing connected to the ‘Drain Line’ flow restrictor is being run to waste, do not use this water for drinking. Your drinking water line should be marked with either ‘outlet’, ‘Drinking Water’ or ‘Aquarium Water’.

**Hot Water has been run through the filter**

**Reverse Osmosis units are designed for cold water only.** If you accidentally run hot water through the membrane for a short period of time, it may still undamaged. What will happen in the pore size in the membrane will expand and allow more contamination through. Run the unit on cold water for 15 minutes and test to make sure there is no issues.

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**Warranty**

**Standard Warranty – Filter Systems Australia**

Filter Systems Australia (FSA) warrants each new product to be free from defects in material and workmanship for a period of 1 year from date of tax invoice issued by FSA. During this 12-month period FSA may cover freight expenses for a faulty item. After this 12-month period elapses, it is the responsibility of the buyer to arrange freight and cover expenses to return the item to FSA. Any damage that occurs to items during this transit is not the responsibility of FSA.

Filter Systems Australia’s exclusive obligation under this Warranty is, at FSA’s own option, to either repair or replace the Product, once FSA has deemed that the Product is defective.

**Filter Systems Australia will not cover any labour charge incurred by the buyer for the replacement or repair of any product.**

This warranty applies only to the original retail purchaser of the product – Non-Transferable.

This warranty does not cover any product that is relocated from the site of its original installation.

All replaced or exchanged parts taken out under this warranty become the property of Filter Systems Australia.
Qualification for Warranty
These filter systems must be installed as per the installation instructions and adhere to the working specifications of the unit. As these units are working as a direct flow and not a permanent installation, a qualified plumber is not required by law. A general Handyman or person of adequate DIY skills may conduct the installation of this product.

Filter systems must be maintained as per FSA recommendations including the use of replacement filters, fittings, and components supplied by FSA. Failure to maintain the filtration system using FSA approved products may void warranty.

Filtration systems must be fitted with a Pressure Limiting device to limit the pressure to 500 kPa or lower if the incoming feed pressure exceeds 500 kPa.

FSA does not take responsibility for retaining customer records, it is the buyer’s responsibility to retain all tax invoices from the original sale and ongoing maintenance purchases as proof of upkeep on the system.

Limited Warranty
Due to the many working parts of Undersink RO Water Filters, there are some components that fall under ‘regular wear and tear’ which are not covered under a ‘lifetime warranty’.

Items including but not limited to; Valves, Taps, Seals, Adaptors, and are subject to a 1 Year warranty from date of invoice.

Please refer to the product listing to see the recommended replacement times for valves and other components.

Replacement Filter cartridges are consumable products and do not qualify for warranty.

Lifetime Warranty
This warranty covers the following components in Portable Reverse Osmosis Filter Kits:
- GT8-31 Reverse Osmosis Membrane Housing

In the event of a housing failure in the form of a crack, leak or rupture to the above component that is not deemed to be an external cause (e.g. impact, freezing, neglect, or if installation is not done by a qualified plumber), FSA will replace the component(s) under a ‘Lifetime Warranty’ if the buyer has followed all things outlined in ‘Qualification for Warranty’.

If this warranty claim happens outside the initial 12-month period, the buyer is responsible for the freight as per the previously stated ‘Warranty’.

For further Warranty Terms & Conditions, please view our full warranty as outlined on our website.

Replacement Filters & Parts
Filter Cartridges:
- GT6-21S Inline Activated Carbon Filter (Pre-Filter) 6 Months
- GT6-32 “ “ “ Puretron T300 Hydrogen Rich Cartridge 12 Months
- GT6-10 “ “ “ “ Inline FAR Infrared Cartridge 1 – 2 Years
- GT13-59-ALP “ “ “ 50GPD Reverse Osmosis Membrane 1 – 4 years (TDS Testing Required)

Fittings:
- GT10-22LS ¼” Male x ¼” Tube Fitting
- GT10-23LS ½” Male Elbow x ¼” Tube Fitting
- GT10-2LS 1/8” Male x ¼” Tube Fitting
- GT10-13LS 1/8” Male Elbow x ¼” Tube Fitting
Valves:
GT25-3S1/4  Kitchen Tap Diverter Valve ¼”
GT25-15  Male x Male Thread Adapter 22 – 24mm
GT13-1S  200CC Flow Restrictor ¼”

Housings:
GT8-31  1812 Membrane Housing

Diagrams
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