

Measuring a Screen: Millimeters vs. Mesh

When we are talking about screen sizes, we are usually in terms of millimeters or mesh. In a screen, they measure the size of the openings that materials pass through.

Mesh: Take one square inch of filtering material (screen) and count the holes in it. If you have 80 openings in that area, then you have an 80-mesh screen. If you have 200, then it is 200-mesh. The higher the mesh number, the smaller the particles that are filtered.

Millimeter: The millimeter is a unit of length in the metric system, equivalent to one thousandth of a meter or one tenth of a centimeter (the SI base unit of length). The screen size rating for millimeters is the actual diameter of the hole in the screen.

Mesh	inches	mm	Microns
2 ½	0.312	8.00	8000
3	0.250	6.35	6350
3 ½	0.223	5.66	5660
4	0.187	4.76	4760
5	0.157	4.00	4000
6	0.132	3.36	3360
7	0.111	2.83	2830
8	0.0937	2.38	2380
10	0.0787	2.00	2000
12	0.0661	1.68	1680
14	0.0555	1.41	1410
16	0.0469	1.19	1190
18	0.0394	1.00	1000
20	0.0331	0.841	841
25	0.0278	0.707	707
30	0.0234	0.595	595
35	0.0197	0.500	500
40	0.0165	0.420	420
45	0.0139	0.354	354
50	0.0117	0.297	297
60	0.0098	0.250	250
70	0.0083	0.210	210
80	0.0070	0.177	177
100	0.0059	0.149	149
120	0.0049	0.125	125
140	0.0041	0.105	105
170	0.0035	0.088	88
200	0.0029	0.074	74
230	0.0025	0.063	63
270	0.0021	0.053	53
325	0.0017	0.044	44
400	0.0015	0.037	37