

Short answer: **No, you cannot replace NOT IN with <> when checking multiple values.**

Let me explain clearly 🖱

❌ ❓ Why <> cannot be used for multiple values?

<> works only for **one value at a time**:

WHERE city <> 'Delhi'

✓ Valid

❓ But it checks **ONLY 1 value**.

If you try this:

WHERE city <> ('Delhi', 'Mumbai')

This is **WRONG SQL** ❓

It will give a syntax error.

Correct way to exclude multiple values

✓ **Use NOT IN for multiple values**

WHERE city NOT IN ('Delhi', 'Mumbai')

This excludes both Delhi and Mumbai.

✓ If you want to use <> then you must use AND

WHERE city <> 'Delhi' AND city <> 'Mumbai'

This works, but:

❓ Long

❓ Not clean

❓ Not best practice

❓ Harder to maintain

❓ Best Practice

➤ **Use NOT IN**

When excluding **more than 1 value**.

➤ **Use <>**

When excluding **only one value**.