

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
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❓ Best Practice

➤ Use **NOT IN**

When excluding **more than 1 value**.

➤ Use `<>`

When excluding **only one** value.