



Hedge funds are like mutual funds in some ways. Investment professionals in a hedge fund pool in money from investors to be managed - exactly like the mutual funds do. And, subject to some minor restrictions, investors in hedge funds can withdraw their money as they can in a mutual fund. Nothing else is similar. Let me explain the differences



Difference 1

Hedge Funds

Focus on absolute returns

Mutual Funds

Focus on relative returns.

Returns should be higher

than benchmark



Difference 2

Hedge Funds

Can invest in any asset class - stocks, bonds, commodities, real estate, private partnerships, - or exotic debt products like packaged sub-prime mortgages.

Mutual Funds

Work within a risk
controlled and compliance
framework set up by the
regulator. Hence very risky
asset classes are
prohibited for investment



Difference 3

Hedge Funds

They can borrow to bet bigger and enhance returns.

Mutual Funds

They can borrow – but within SEBI guidelines



Difference 4

Hedge Funds

They can run highly concentrated portfolios.

Mutual Funds

The objective is to protect investors' investment and hence diversification is the key principle.



Difference 5

Hedge Funds

Meant for those who are already rich. Hedge funds are open only to 'accredited investors' defined as those with net worth of more than \$1.5 million, or income in excess of \$200,000 in each of the past two years. The good ones demand \$1 million or more of investment.

Mutual Funds

Meant for people at large providing them with an option of building wealth through equity and debt investments. Mutual Funds allow even small investors to participate.



Difference 6

Hedge Funds

Work on 2/20 basis which means they charge 2% a year by way of management fees and 20% of the net profit. They do not share in losses.

Mutual Funds

They charge 1.25% on the first 100 crores of the AUM managed. Annual expenses can go upto 2.25% to 2.50%.



Difference 7

Hedge Funds

Hedge funds are virtually unregulated.

Mutual Funds

Mutual funds are heavily regulated because investor safety is the most important requirement



Difference 8

Hedge Funds

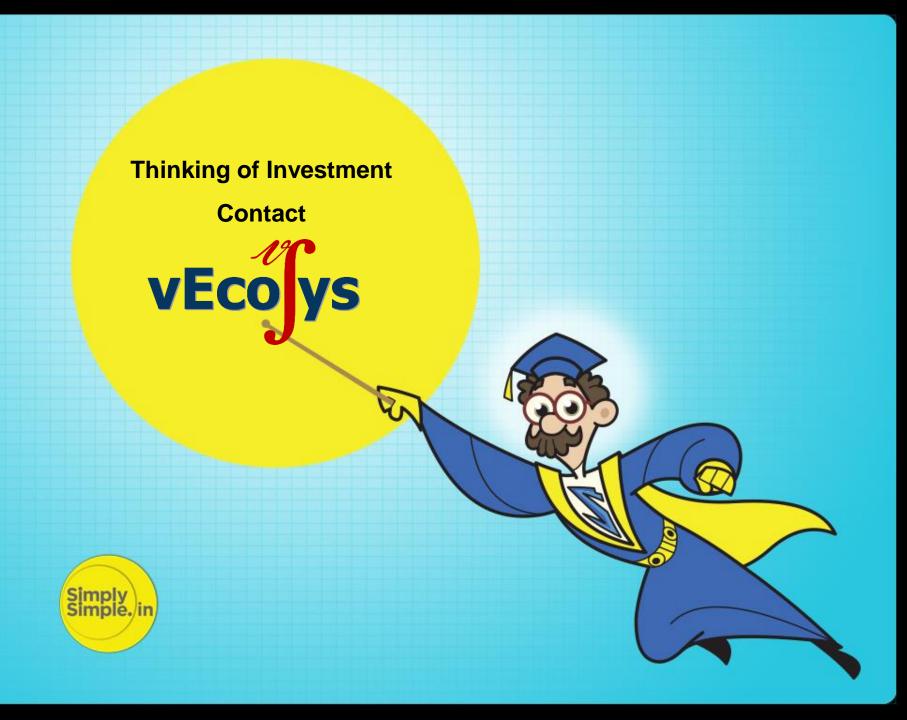
They cannot market themselves publicly

Mutual Funds

They are sold as products to enhance wealth







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Mutual Fund investments are subject to market risks, read all scheme related documents carefully.