



Algarid on a submersible pump in a water channel sump

## Smelly Water a turn-off

(Reprinted from the Weekly Times - November 11<sup>th</sup>, 1992.)

The problem of smelly water that tastes horrid and will not lather the soap often worsens in warm weather.

Last summer many phone calls from farmers to Algarid Pty Ltd reported smelly water from taps.

The water source was either from bores, channels or dams.

Most had pressure pumps, which were not in operation full time.

The water in each case did not smell at the source but only when the tap was first turned on.

Principal of Algarid Pty Ltd, Bob Rigby, said in water there was nearly always bacteria present.

There were two groups, with the first aerobic.

These bacteria colonized on the surface of the pipe in a slime formation and multiplied, putting free bacteria into the water, which in turn looked for more clean surfaces on which to multiply.

smelly

The problem with these bacteria was they consumed oxygen from the water. Once all the oxygen was used, the second type, anaerobic bacteria, started to multiply and these were the smelly ones.

Mr. Rigby said they could be the cause of stomach upsets.

### CYCLE

This cycle could start in the pipe once the pump stopped and the temperature rose in the summer.

"When you first turn on the tap and until such time as the anaerobic bacteria are flushed out, the water will smell," Mr. Rigby said.

"There is a simple cure for this - to install an Algarid unit at the source of the water, immediately after the pump."

This device was a simple plumbing fitting which had a series of magnets in it.

Mr. Rigby said the magnetic field, through which the water flowed, acted as a catalyst on the nutrient present in the water.

These nutrients were the food on which the bacteria and algae depended.

The result was one or more of the essential nutrients was converted into a form indigestible to the bacteria, creating what amounted to a trace element deficiency, so no multiplication could take place. Mr. Rigby said if the aerobic bacteria did not multiply, then the oxygen remained in the water and the water remained sweet and fresh.

He said many farmers had reported other effects, such as where iron was high and caused staining and hardness in water, stains disappeared and the water appeared softer.

Soap lathered better, detergents went further, there was less spotting when washing the car, and there was an improvement in the taste of tea and coffee.

# Water filter warning

(Reprinted from the "The Age" - July 17<sup>th</sup>, 1992.)

Domestic water filters are a potential health hazard, a scientist warned yesterday. Tests of 17 popular brands found the water that came out of 16 was contaminated with potentially harmful levels of bacteria, according to Mr. John Bowden, a senior laboratory technician at the Gold Coast City Council. The problem could usually be avoided if householders flushed water through the filters before using them in the morning, Mr. Bowden said. This was because the problem mainly arose when the filter had been standing unused overnight, when bacteria appeared to multiply it.