Helping The World Save Water Since 1995

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Envirosink – Background Information

Standing at the sink one morning, Ib Andersen, a Canadian inventor, living in British Columbia, was rinsing out his glass for a first drink of the day. He suddenly realized the tremendous waste. First one runs water to clear out what stood overnight in the pipes, and *then* rinses out two of three *more* glassfuls of water, before one finally has a drink. What a tremendous waste of water. Andersen therefore invented and developed a secondary sink with its' own drainage system to a storage tank outside the house, to use for watering his garden. He realized a lot of water could be saved and re-used for other purposes, such as flushing the toilet system, washing the car, and watering the flower garden etc. Each time one makes tea or coffee one rinses out the kettle or coffee pot, and therefore wastes perfectly usable water into the sewer system. With almost every kitchen task involving water, there is a significant amount of water that gets disposed of down the drain, not to be used again. There are a lot of ways to save water. Rinsing dishes afters meals, even with the tap running slow, contributed to this waste. Now, with this new system, a water pan collects the waste which is then poured into the special water collection device, for which a patent is now pending in Canada and the United States.

An increasingly scarce and precious resource, especially in areas of the world where water is difficult to access, such a device would dramatically reduce waste and increase the re-use of collected waste. Water is an expensive commodity in metropolitan areas such as San Francisco, or built up areas of the Persian Gulf, as one of many examples, where desalinization projects are necessary to change seawater into drinking water for domestic use in the home. One major problem in desalinization projects however, is the cost of producing fresh water whereby high costs limit their use to area of great water scarcity. Water from conventional sources, such as wells and reservoirs, is sold for an average cost of water per cubic metre: in the Unites states 65.8, Canada 78.9, Australia 100.5, United Kingdom 190.3, France 157.5, Germany, 224.5, to list only a few (figures in US cents). In places such as Hong Kong, water is at times, only available for three hours a day.

In North American today, the average daily water consumption rate in populated areas ranges from 380 to 950 litres (100-250 gallons) per person per day. Conservation through a recycle method is viable plan, both environmentally and economically, to reduce the cost of building extensive water-treatment plants and/or maintaining the existing ones.

The issue of sewage disposal assumed increasing importance in the early 1970s as a result of the general concern expressed worldwide about the wider problem of pollution of the human environment, the contamination of the atmosphere, rivers, lakes, oceans, and groundwater by domestic, municipal, agricultural and industrial waste. As the cities expanded and began to provide treatment of sewage, sanitary sewage was separated from storm sewage be a separate pipe system. This arrangement is more efficient because it excludes the voluminous storm sewage from the treatment plant. None-the-less, existing sewage systems are overtaxed with wastewater that could be recycled.

Domestic sewage results from people's day-to-day activities, such as bathing, body elimination, food preparation, and recreation, averaging about 227 litres (about 60 gallons) per person daily. Less water is needed if recycling is practiced. A typical metropolitan area discharges a volume of wastewater equal to about 60-80 percent of its total daily water requirements, the rest being used for washing cars, watering lawns and for domestic needs in kitchen as described above.

The organic matter in typical domestic sewage is approximately 50 percent carbohydrates, 40 percent protein, and 10 percent fat; the pH can range from 6.5 to 8.0. Use of biodegradable and non-toxic substances will increase the amount of potable water able to be recycled.

Water is also expensive to treat as waste. 50 percent +/- really does not require treatment. Because it is all mixed in the same drain system this is currently little or no choice. Every time you save a gallon of fresh water or re-useable water, this saves the treatment of a gallon. In North America water is still relatively inexpensive but can be scarce in some areas where "natural resources" or ground water is difficult to obtain. It can now be a very different story with this new device.

This very unique ENVIROSINK® utilized all standard plumbing fittings and can installed by the 'do-it-yourself' handyperson at a very reasonable cost. This attractive environmentally helpful secondary sink should be in all new kitchen plans and retrofitted into all existing kitchens.

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