Article No. 6

Increasing the Purifying power of Activated Carbon

- **How to increase the results by 100%**

The filtering effectiveness of activated carbon can be increased by 100% with its correct use:

There are many compromise methods of using activated carbon which produce inferior results but unquestionably, activated carbon works best in removing unpleasant volatiles in spirit when used in a granulated form as a filling in a filtration column using the following method.

Fill a tube 1.5 meters in length and at least 40mm diameter with pre-wetted Chemviron granulated activated carbon. **This takes approximately 1.7 litres of carbon. This tube can be made from stainless steel or from food grade PVC piping.**

The filtration must go as slowly as possible without stopping or the effects are much reduced.

The filtration rate must not rise above approximately 200ml to 400ml per hour. If the flow is too fast place one coffee cup of finer granule activated carbon 0.25-1mm at the bottom of the column to reduce the speed. With some carbons the speed can be higher. To achieve maximum effect from activated carbon the filtration must take place through the carbon bed without channeling, and in addition the tube must be free of any air.

To accomplish this proceed as follows:

1. Put the carbon in a stainless steel kitchen saucepan and completely cover with 2 -3 times more hot or boiling water. Mix for a minute and pour out any excess water. Repeat 4 to 5 times to wash out soluble material from the carbon.

2. Place filter papers in the tube (or at the end) and rest the end of the tube on a sponge in a bucket. Fill the tube full with warm water, then top up with the pre-wetted carbon so it flows into water This way no air at all remains in the tube. Filter 2-3 litres of water through the column to wash out any re- soluble water substances present in the carbon.

3. Start pouring the alcohol to be filtered directly onto the water so that no air comes into contact with the carbon in the tube. Filter all of the alcohol in one run, again to prevent any air from coming into contact with the carbon.

4. Run about 1 litre of water through at the end of the alcohol to flush out the last of the alcohol. Taste the alcohol and stop collecting when you detect water.

Caution: The tube must be at least 38mm diameter or it will introduce a wall effect where alcohol slips through the column without being purified.

These instructions were kindly contributed by

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(Gert is a renowned expert on the manufacture of Vodka and manufacturer of the Prestige range of Spirit and Liqueur essences. He is a tireless advocat for the production of **quality** alcohol in the home where it is legal to do so.)

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