



Q. What can we do to get rid of bad tastes and odors in our community's drinking water?

A. Most bad tastes and odors in community water supplies are caused by natural organic materials—decaying plant and animal matter—or synthetic organic chemicals such as pesticides, herbicides and solvents.

These undesirable substances, while not present in sufficient concentrations to pose any threat to public health, are still capable of giving drinking water a foul taste.

Many potable water plants try to eliminate these tastes by aerating the water, by treating with chemicals, or by dumping powdered carbon into the water. Since none of these techniques is totally satisfactory, a new process for assuring more effective removal of objectionable tastes from water was needed. Calgon Corporation developed a process using granular activated carbon in place of sand in water plant filters to remove tastes and to filter small particles from water.

The carbon is the same as that used in "charcoal" cigaret filters. It removes virtually all of the common organic taste and odor-causing materials in drinking water quickly and economically. As water passes through the tiny carbon granules, the offending substances are trapped and held by the carbon.

Calgon's granular activated carbon is now being used in many communities in nine states across the country and in several foreign countries to eliminate taste and odor problems in their water supplies. Approximately 100 other communities in these and other states are currently evaluating the use of this carbon for improving the taste of their water supplies.

For more information on cities which have solved their water, taste and odor problems, write to P.O. Box 1346, Pittsburgh, Pa. 15230.