

"POWDERED" WATER?

Stockpiling of Water In Paper Bags on Way

An item in the August newsletter of the Soap and Detergent Association (New York) states that the classic concept of water as a substance—occurring in three forms—liquid, ice, or steam—must be modified to accommodate the invention of "powdered" water.

According to the Journal of the American Water Works Association, Dr. Helmut Bruenner and Dr. Dieter Schutte of Degussa Chemical Works in Rheinfelden, Germany, succeeded in combining a new water repellent silicon dioxide (Aerosil R-972) with water to form a fine, dry white powder.

Each tiny water droplet is surrounded by a layer of Aerosil R-972, which prevents it from running together with other droplets to form a liquid.

The powder, not a compound, can be liquefied by mechanical pressure, distillation, or a wetting agent.

The chemical, marketed under the name of Organ-O-Sil in the U.S., is already being used to prevent lumping in various chemicals that have an affinity for water.

The Journal suggested these possibilities for water utilities: "Stockpiles of water for the dry years, bags, rather than bottles, of samples, thirst pills, packaged water for use with instant foods, even dry lawn sprinkling for drought years."