

Literature Search

- I. Definitions of Depth Filtration
 - a. Multiple layers or a single layer of medium that captures particles within its structure (Sterlitech)
 - b. Layers of filtration media with different sizes and densities (Culligan)
 - c. Particles are trapped throughout the filter bed, not just in the top few inches (on the surface) (Culligan)
 - d. Removes particles by attaching them to media or previously retained particles (Farizoglu)
 - e. Because of the particle/pore size ratio, particles smaller than the pores are captured during depth filtration; particles larger than the pore size get stuck at the entrance to the filter (“sieving”) which is classified as surface filtration (Wyckomar)
 - f. **Head loss** (definition): measure of the reduction in the total head of the liquid as it moves through a system. The total head is the sum of the elevation head, velocity head and pressure head (Mountain Empire Community College)

- II. Current Knowledge of How Depth Filtration Occurs
 - a. **Binding**: tendency of certain substances to stick to filter medium, usually based on **charge** (Sterlitech)
 - b. **Physical/Chemical Properties** that cause adherence between particles and filtration medium (Lau)
 - c. **Electrostatic or van der Waals attraction** between the particle and medium; once charge on medium is neutralized, continued deposition at lower efficiency (Lau)
 - d. “Rapid sand filters use a much higher velocity of 5-15 m/h and do function by depth filtration within the bed.” (Sutherland)
 - e. When raw water passes through the filter bed, particles are deposited inside its pores, reducing pore size and coincidentally increasing the filter bed’s resistance to the flow. This also causes a rise in local liquid velocity, which pulls previously deposited particles from the filter bed back into the effluent. (Farizoglu)

- III. How Depth Filtration Relates to Other Factors
 - a. **Pressure drop** throughout the filter increases as suspended particles accumulate in the filter bed (Culligan). Initial head loss occurs when turbidity-free water passes through the clean filter bed. Head loss increases with time during operation and also increases proportionally with the square of the flow rate. (Farizoglu)
 - b. **Effective sizes and shapes of sand grains** have strong correlation between depth of the sand bed and efficiency of removing particles. (Jusoh) Increasing the size of the grains results in a decrease in head loss, but also decreases the turbidity removal rate. (Farizoglu)
 - c. **Depth of filter bed**: increasing depth of the filter leads to an increase in head loss because of greater surface area, which also improves the efficiency of the filter (Farizoglu)

- d. **Volume of Deposit** is key factor for describing head loss and steady state removal characteristics; smaller particles form high volume deposits (Balasubramaniam)
- IV. Head Loss
- a. Particles filtered at the **surface** (cake surface filtration): rapid head loss develops, leading to shorter filter runs, and the head loss vs. time is exponential (Benth)
 - b. Particles filtered **within the bed** (depth filtration): head loss increases linearly with time and with solid accumulation; promotes longer filter runs (Benth)
- V. Subsurface Injection of Water into Sand Filters
- a. Edge of Knowledge? – Meeting scheduled with Jim Bisogni to learn more about this idea

Sources

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