

Water Purifiers



To purify the water carried aboard manned spacecraft, NASA contracted with Chemtrac, Inc., Rosemont, Illinois for development of a compact, light-weight electrolytic sterilizer. The unit generates silver ions in the Orbiter's water system in concentrations of 50 to 100 parts in a billion; the ions serve as bactericides and deodorizers.

high absorption media to inhibit bacteria growth and remove the medicinal taste and odor of chlorine.

The Ambassador bacteriostatic water devices are marketed by Ambassador Marketing, Lebanon, Oregon, a new company formed by inventor Ray Ward, who was among the first to commercialize the Shuttle water purification technology. In 1976, Ward



This technology has spawned a number of spinoff applications, the latest among them the Ambassador line of bacteriostatic water treatment systems exemplified **above**; the mother pictured is demonstrating to an interested tot the Space Saver 5000 unit, designed for compact kitchens with little counter space.

Other members of the new Ambassador line, shown **at right**, include the Magnum Pressure Unit, a Travel Unit, the Ice Maker unit for refrigerators and the Invisible unit used under the kitchen counter. All of the units employ high grade,



sought to develop a water filter for his own personal use to remove the "rusty" taste of his local water supply. He learned of the NASA technology and requested a technical information package from NASA's Center for AeroSpace Information, Baltimore, Maryland. Using that information as a departure point, Ward invested \$27 and developed his own homemade device.

The unit was so successful he began marketing it as the Bon Del line of water filters, which boomed into a \$50 million a year business. The new Ambassador line employs the same basic NASA-derived technology, but Ward has substantially refined it and introduced new production technology for the smaller, highly efficient Ambassador units. ●