



Water Filter

When Ray Ward moved from Utah to Arizona, he didn't like the taste of the water, so he decided to develop his own water filter. Today, only five years later, he is president and board chairman of Bon Del Manufacturing Company, Mesa, Arizona, whose filters are sold worldwide by some 20,000 distributors.

During extensive research on various types of filtering systems, Ward learned of a NASA unit designed to purify water supplied aboard the Space Shuttle Orbiter. Developed by Chemtrix, Inc. Rosemont, Illinois. A compact, lightweight electrolytic water sterilizer, it generates silver ions—in concentrations of 50 to 100 parts per billion—in the water flow system. The silver ions serve as an effective bactericide/deodorizer. Ward received technical information from NASA on the sterilizer and used it as the basis for his own



development, which is known as the Bon Del Bacteriostatic Water Filter. Ward had originally not planned to manufacture the unit, simply to build a filter for personal home use. But friends and neighbors who learned of the unit wanted one; their rapid acceptance launched a booming business.

About the size of a thermos bottle, the Bon Del filter attaches to a faucet. Tap water passes through a filtering element of silver which has been chemically plated onto activated carbon. The silver inhibits bacterial growth while the activated carbon removes objectionable tastes and odors caused by addition of chlorine and other chemicals to the municipal water supply. Bon Del produces the filter in three models: a kitchen unit (upper left), the company's best seller; a "Tourister" unit for portable use while traveling (upper right); and a refrigerator unit that attaches to the ice cube water line. A filter will treat 5,000 to 10,000 gallons of water. Bon Del is introducing new designs in 1982.