

## TREATMENT OF DISTILLERY SPENT WASH FOR IRRIGATION PURPOSE BY USING SAND AS ADSORBENT

**Bharat Kumar<sup>1\*</sup>, Akash Negi<sup>2</sup>, Hashanpreet Dhaliwal<sup>3</sup>, Sparsh Munakhia<sup>4</sup>**

<sup>\*1</sup> Department of Chemistry Doon International School, Dehradun, 248001, U.K., India

<sup>2, 3, 4</sup> Student Class XI 2016-2017, Doon International School, Dehradun, 248001, U.K., India

<sup>\*1</sup> [singhal.bharat@rediffmail.com](mailto:singhal.bharat@rediffmail.com), <sup>2</sup> [akashnegi1736@gmail.com](mailto:akashnegi1736@gmail.com),

<sup>3</sup> [hashanpreetdhaliwal@gmail.com](mailto:hashanpreetdhaliwal@gmail.com), <sup>4</sup> [sparsh.munakhia@yahoo.com](mailto:sparsh.munakhia@yahoo.com)

**Corresponding Author: -**

Email: [singhal.bharat@rediffmail.com](mailto:singhal.bharat@rediffmail.com)

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### **Abstract: -**

Sand treatment of distillery effluent has great potential as a sustainable method as it is a low cost method. The aim of this investigation is to study the sand treatment method for purification of distillery spent wash. For this, the study encompassing evaluation of reduction of various physical chemical parameters (pH, COD, TS, TDS, Ca, Mg, Na and K) of distillery spent wash was checked by passing through the sand column. The distillery effluent was acidic (pH 4.7) and dark brown in color which often cause psychological fear in farmers for utilization. Sand treatment of spent wash exhibited good reduction in COD, TS, TDS, Mg, Na, Ca, after 72-hour treatment and increase in pH toward pH 7. Treated spent wash showed a good growth of wheat seeds.

**Keywords:** "Spent wash", "Absorbent", "Sand", "Chemical parameter", "Irrigation".



## 1. INTRODUCTION

Increasing industrialization for sustaining economic growth and ever-increasing population is leading to the pollution of the environment due to the disposal of untreated effluents. Various pollutants produced in industries directly or indirectly and result in cumulative pollution of our environment. These pollutants cause severe degradation in pedosphere, hydrosphere, atmosphere and thus causing a potential menace to the health and welfare of mankind.

Wastes generated from various industries include the effluents from textile, chemical fertilizers, pulp and paper, petrochemical and breweries, metal processing, automobile manufacturing, power-plant including leather and tannery industries and thermal and nuclear power plant etc.

Improper disposal methods and inadequate treatment of toxic constituents from different industries have led to the widespread contamination of surface and ground waters and have made the water resources unfit for usage. Hence there is an urgent need for waste water treatment.

Environmental pollution by distillery industry has recently been the subject of much research. Distillery waste is one of the major wastes of ecological concern. It is a complex, caramelized and recalcitrant waste containing high percentage of organic matter and heavy metal ions (Nemade and Shri vastava, 2000). This causes pollution in receiving waters as well as in land.

To safeguard humanity, we require conducive and congenial environment for which the industrial pollution need to be minimized substantially. To achieve this, several physical, chemical and biological methods/techniques have been developed and being practiced in very few industries along with distilleries (Lin et al 2003). The reason of limited scope of these techniques lies with their adhered economical solution of the pollution abatement problems, adsorption treatment has been one of the cost-effective method and being practical unintentionally during crop irrigation. Once the industrial effluent is suitably treated, it could be applicable for crop irrigation. The application of effluent to short rotation forestry crop is a treatment system which if properly designed and maintained could both increase the productivity of the crops and reduce the waste disposal problem (Sims and Riddell 2001). Keeping this in view, the present study therefore is planned to investigate the land treatment of distillery effluent with following objectives

1. To characterize physico-chemical characteristics (pH, color, COD, TS, TDS, Na, K, Mg, and Ca) of distillery effluent (spent wash).
2. To study the impact of Sand as adsorbent on spent wash quality.

## 2. SAND'S PHYSICAL PROPERTIES AND PROCESSES

The physical aspects of waste treatment through sand systems involve the processes of filtration and dilution. As water moves through sand, suspended particles are removed by filtration and filtrate may be diluted with water. The rate of these processes is affected by sand's physical properties i.e. the relative proportion of mineral particles of different sizes present in the sand. Soily sand is less porous, have low filtration rates and retain more water. In contrast, soily sand has low infiltration rates, retains much water and may be poorly drained.

## 3. MATERIAL AND METHODS

### 3.1 Sample collection

Effluents waste water (spent wash) was taken from a distillery, located in Dehradun. The factory uses molasses as the raw material. The effluent flows out into "River Song" that passes through nearby villages. Samples were collected at main outlet of distillery on date 02.11.2016. Samples were collected five times at weekly from November to December 2016 in clean sterile plastic container and stored at 4°C in a refrigerator.

**3.2 Effect of sand as adsorbent on various physiochemical Characteristics of distillery effluent** Five plastic pots were filled with 2 kg sand each and wheat was grown (*Triticum aestivum*) Variety UP2329, after 20days of growth, pots were irrigated with spent wash and the 5<sup>th</sup> pot was used as control. On each irrigation date one liter of treated effluent was poured in each pot. 24 hour treated, 48 hour treated and 72 hour treated spent wash was used in pot 1, pot 2, pot 3 and pot 4 for irrigation. Same time treated samples were collected in sterile reagent bottles for physical and chemical tests.

### 3.3 Physico Chemical Parameters Selected for analysis

**3.3.1 Physical Parameters** pH, TS, TDS.

**3.3.2 Chemical parameters** COD, Ca, Mg, Na & K.

### 3.4 Measurement of Total Solids (TS)

Total solids were determined by measuring the residue left after evaporation of unfiltered samples (APHA 1995).

**3.4.1 Calculations** Total Solids (mg/l) = (A-B) X 1000 / Vol. of sample (ml).

Where A= Dry weight of residue + dish (mg)

B=Weight of dish (mg).

### 3.5 Total Dissolved Solids (TDS)

Total dissolved solids are determined by measuring the residue left after evaporation of filtered sample (ALPHA 1995).

### 3.6 Measurement of pH

The pH of effluent was measured by pH meter using a glass electrode and universal pH indicator solution.

### 3.7 Measurement of COD

It is the maximum amount of oxygen that can be consumed by the organic matter in the sample for complete oxidation. It is measured by method described in APHA (1995).

In this ferrous ammonium sulphate (0.25M) and potassium dichromate ( $K_2Cr_2O_7$ ) of 0.04167 M are used for titration.

#### 3.7.1 Calculations

$COD (mg/l) = (A-B) \times M \times 1000 / \text{volume of Sample in ml.}$

Where A = Volume of FAS used for blank in ml.

B = Volume of FAS used for sample in ml.

M = Molarity of FAS.

FAS = Ferrous ammonium sulphate.

### 3.8 Determination of Ca and Mg

It was measured by complexometric titration using ethylene diamine tetra acetic acid (EDTA). (Schwazebach).

### 3.9 Determination of Na and K

A characteristic light is produced due to excitation of electrons when the samples with Na/K sprayed into a flame. The intensity of this characteristic's radiation is proportional to the concentration of Na/K and can be read at 529/768nm by using suitable optical filter device (Tondon 1998)

## 4. RESULT

Table 1.1 shows that visible color of distillery effluent was dark brown having foul smell, with acidic nature (pH 4.7) and contain TS-10000mg/l, TDS-7600mg/l, pH-4.7, COD-8200mg/l, Ca-2200mg/l, Mg1730mg/l, Na-800mg/l, and K-1700mg/l. Table 1.2 and 1.3 reveals the removal of pollutants from distillery spent wash, which is seen maximum after 72 hour treatment with sand followed by 48 hour and minimum in 24 hour treatment. After treatment with sand at various time intervals, pH of spent was increased significantly from 4.7 to 5.4 after 72-hour treatment (Table 1.2). COD, TS, TDS were found minimum after 72-hour treatment with sand (Table 1.2), maximum reduction in Ca, Mg, Na, and K is seen at after 72-hour treatment with sand (Table 1.2 and 1.3). Maximum reduction in TS, TDS, COD, pH and metallic ions is observed after 72-hour treatment following by 48-hour treatment and minimum change after 24-hour treatment.

## 5. DISCUSSION

Sand is a good adsorbent for color removal from spent wash and referred discoloration up to 90% while discoloration decreased with increasing concentration, reduction in COD from distillery effluent was found maximum 36.36 % by using sand. Changed soil characteristic result in an altered growth of wheat plant and growth of wheat was increased by irrigation with treated for 72 hour. Effluent was purified at a good level by sand.

## 6. CONCLUSION

On the basis of experimental result it could be conclude that sand treatment by using sand is one of the best methods for removal of pollutants from distillery spent wash and we can reshape the effluent characteristics so it could be used as irrigation water to reduce the pressure of application of fertilizers and normal water irrigation. The study also revealed that the diluted effluent could be beneficial for better growth of wheat plant which also enhances wheat seed germination. The adsorbent by using sand treatment method of effluent could be profitably practiced for removing the pollutants and thus avoiding the ground water contamination and its environmental impacts and sand can be used for this purpose successfully.

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**Table: 1.1****Effect of Sand on Color and Odor of Spent Wash**

Parameters	Original Sample	Sand		
		24hr	48hr	72hr
Color	Dark brown	Dark brown	Brown	Brown
Odor	Foul Smell	Molasses odor	Molasses odor	Molasses odors

**Table: 1.2****Physico Chemical Characteristics of Distillery Spent Wash treated with Sand at Various Irrigation Periods**

Para-meters	Original sample	Normal sand		
		24hr	48rh	72hr
TS	10000	6400	6200	5800
TDS	7600	5400	5200	5000
pH	4.7	5.1	5.3	5.4
COD	8200	5816	5464	5218
Ca	2200	760	720	680
Mg	1730	800	600	580
Na	800	620	540	500
K	1700	1060	1020	880

**NOTE:** All values in mg/lit except pH

**TABLE 1.3:**  
**Percent Change in Physic Chemical Characteristics of Distillery Spent Wash Treated with Sand at Various Irrigation Periods**

Para-meters	Original sample	Normal sand		
		24hr	48rh	72hr
TS	10000	-36	-38	-42
TDS	7600	-28.95	-31.58	-34.12
pH	4.7	+5.51	+12.77	+14.89
COD	8200	-29.07	-33.36	-36.36
Ca	2200	-65.45	-67.27	-69.09
Mg	1730	-53.76	-65.31	-66.47
Na	800	-22.5	-32.5	-37.5
K	1700	-37.65	-40	-48.24

(+Increase,-Decrease)