

Critical Nature of Boiler Chemistry



— **HPAC**  **HEATING
PLUMBING
AIR CONDITIONING**

Presented By

**MODERN
HYDRONICS**
SUMMIT 2022



**A man walks into a bar.
He says “I’ll have some
H₂O.”**

**The man next to him
says “I’ll have some H₂O
too!”, then drinks it and
dies.**

H₂O₂ =
Hydrogen
Peroxide

Awarded patent for first condensing boiler while an employee of Rheem - Italy 1974

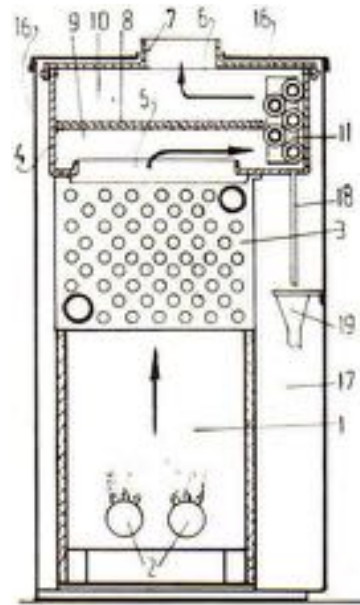


FIG. 1

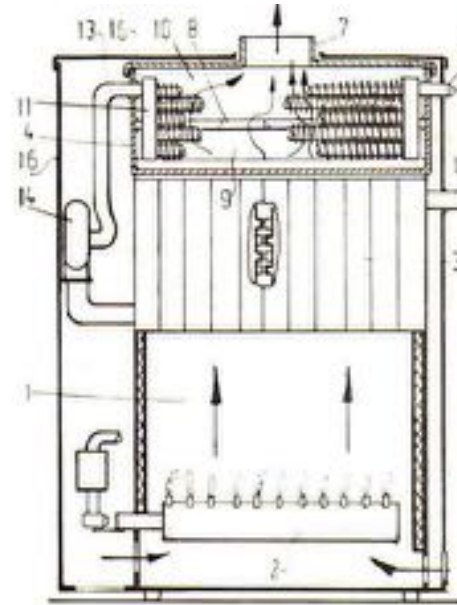


FIG. 2

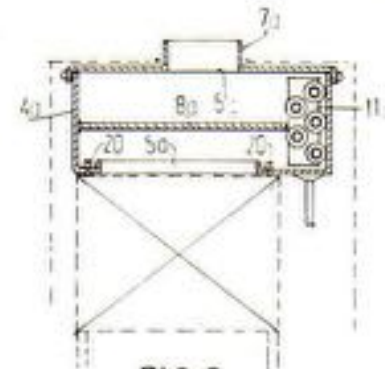
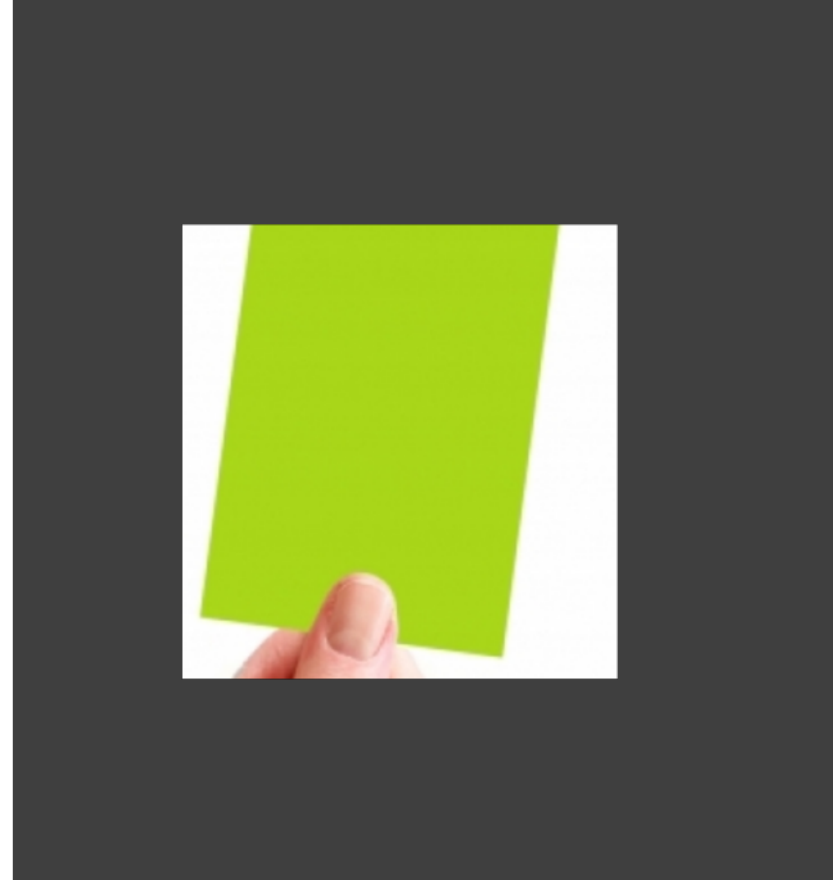


FIG. 3

Myth?

Fact?

All Boiler Heat
Exchangers Can Fail?

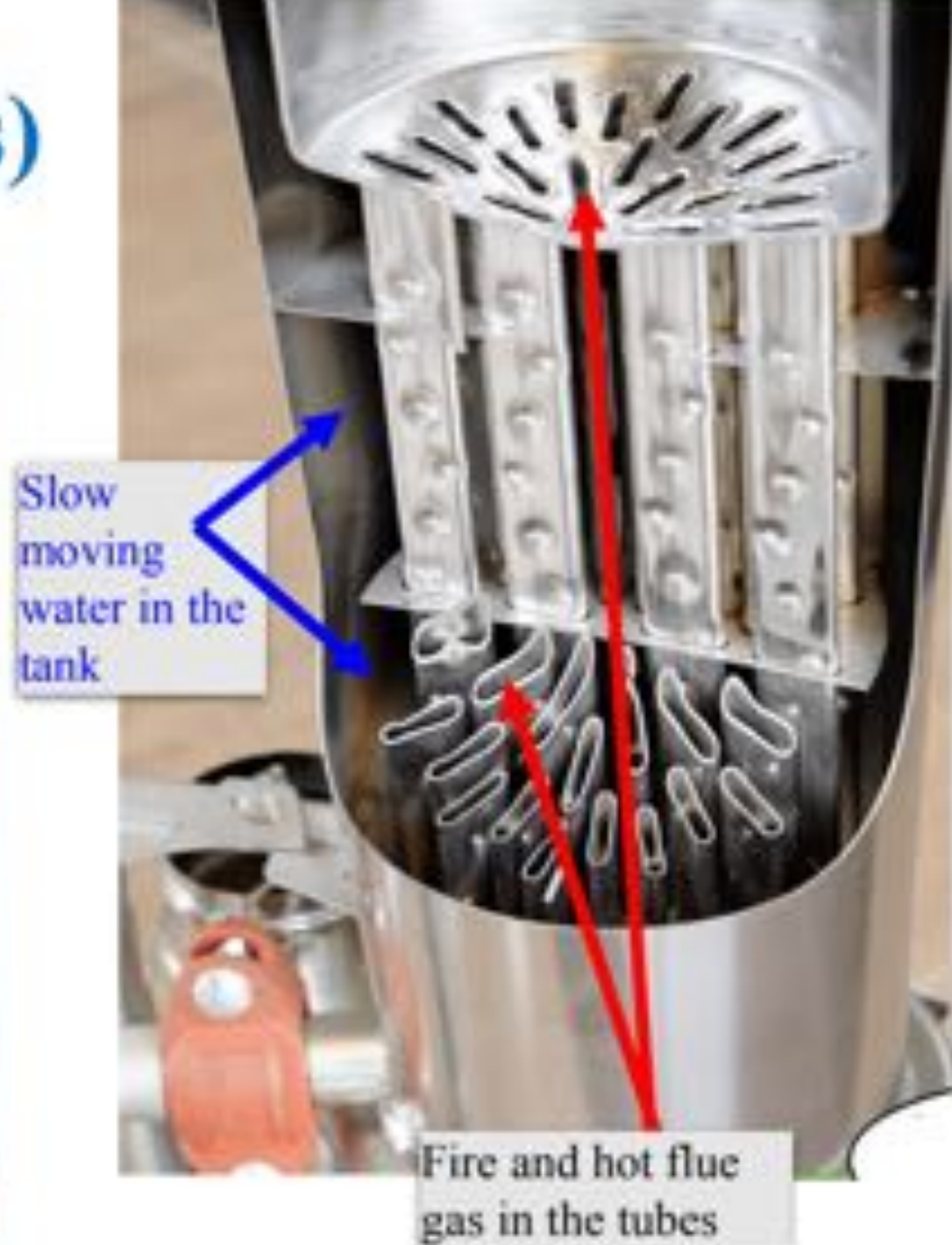
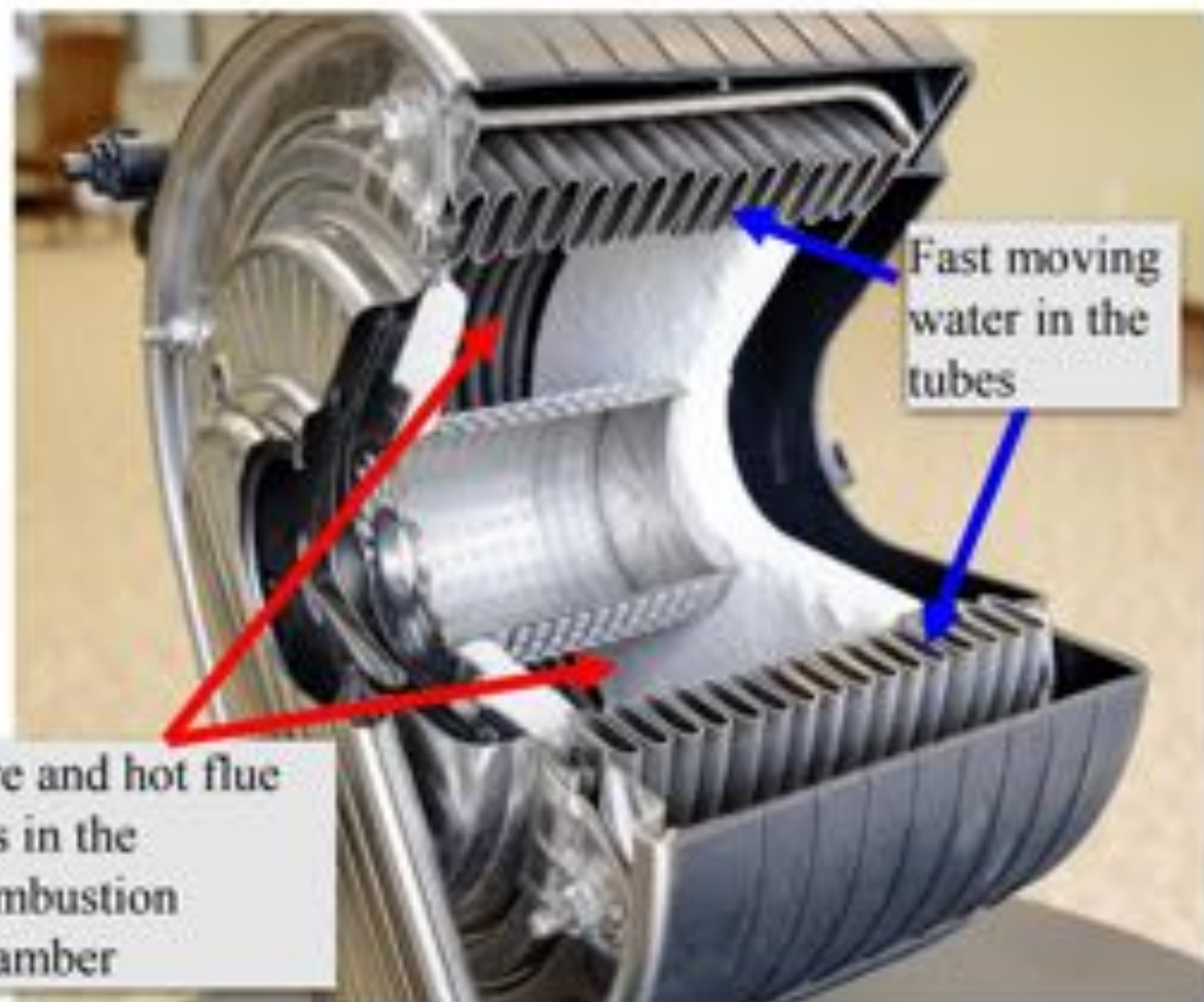


All Boiler Heat Exchangers Can Fail?

Examples of buildup in Heat Exchangers



Heat Exchanger Design(s)



Myth?

Fact?

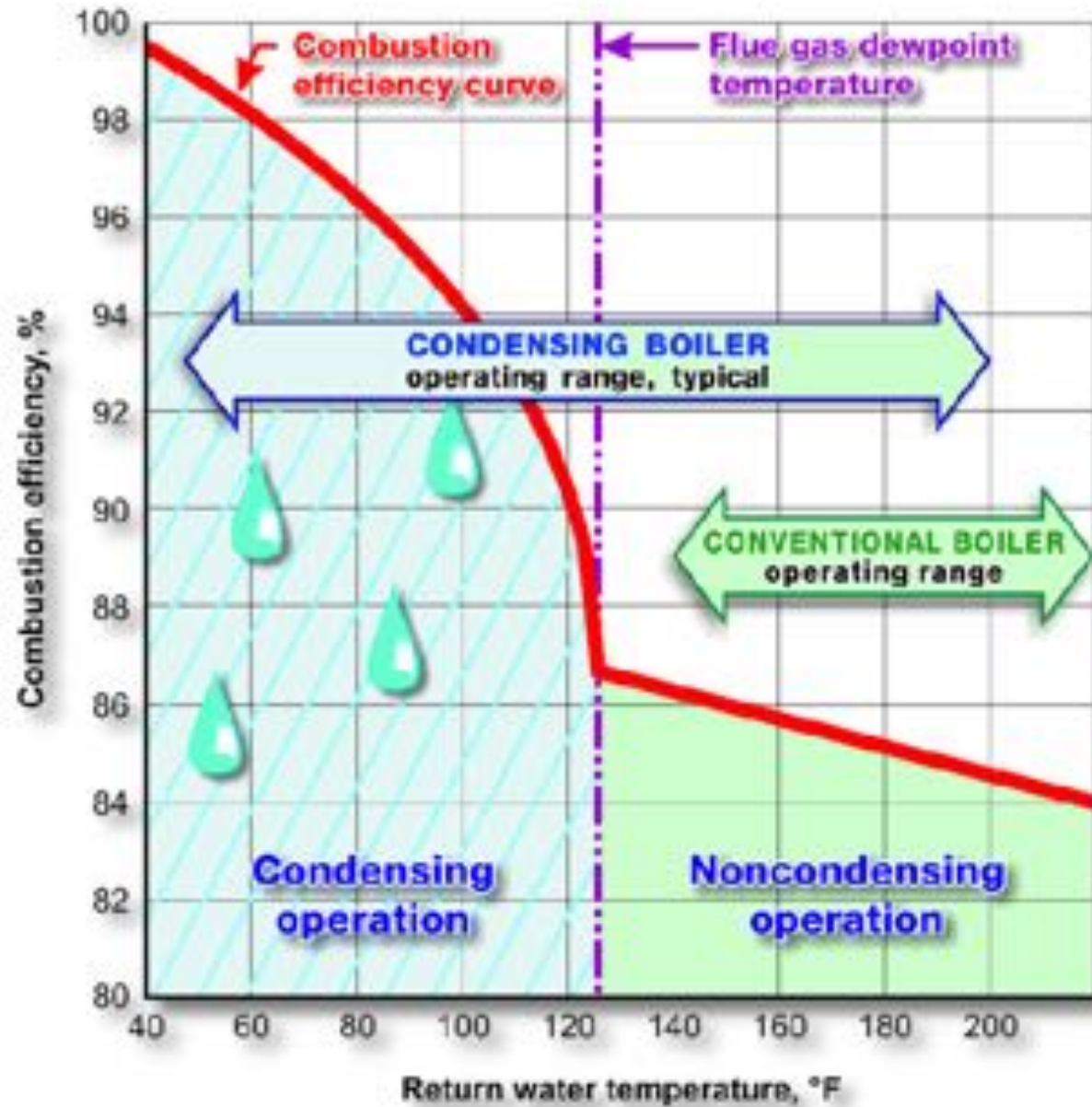
Black Water or
Black Gold is good
for your boiler!



Myth?

Fact?

We all treat our
condensate and
neutralize it





Myth?

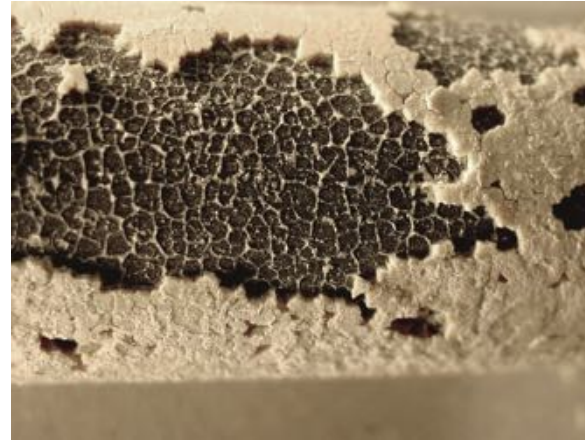
Fact?

I don't need to treat
City Water, it's already
been treated

Possible consequences of using untreated tap water



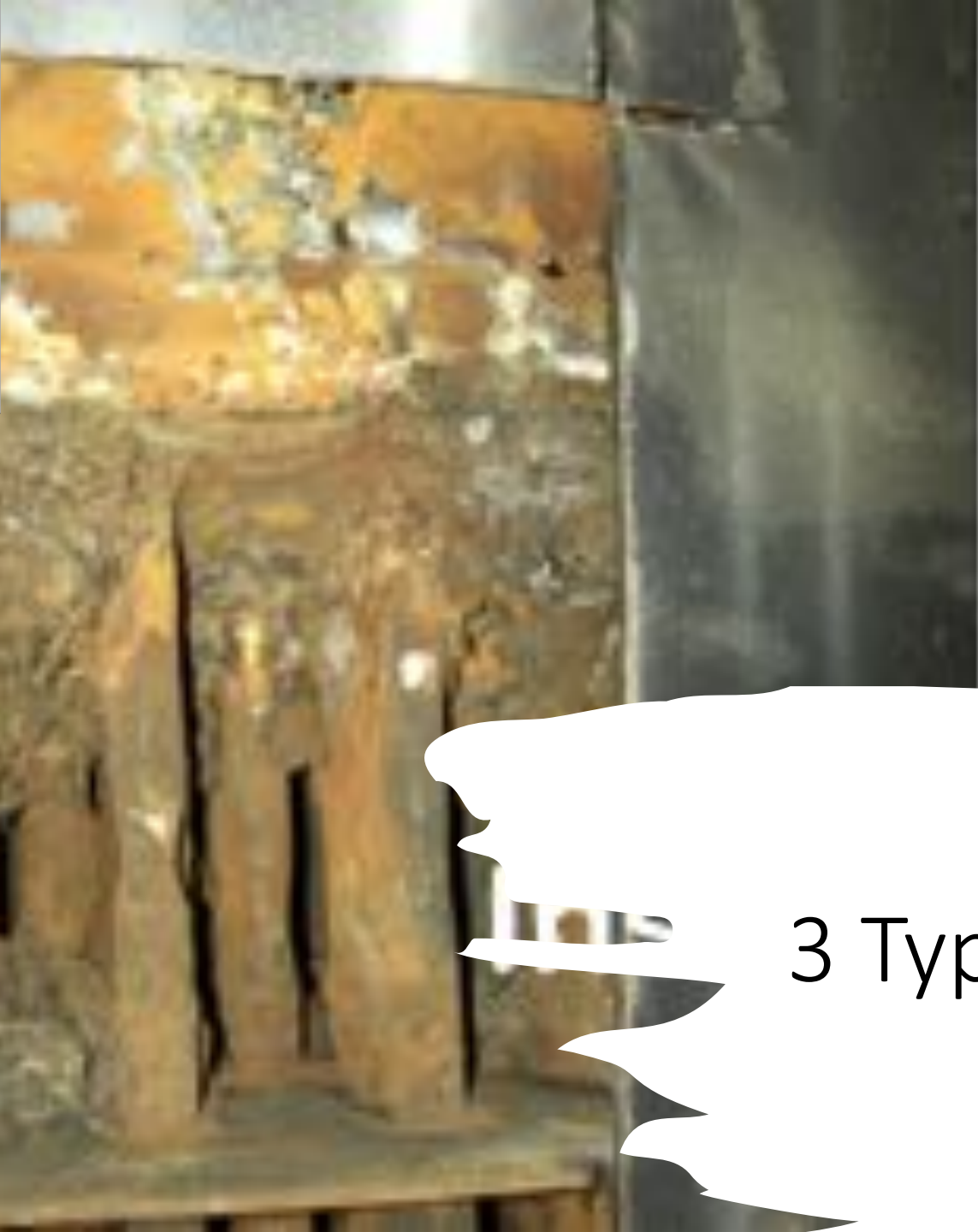
sludge



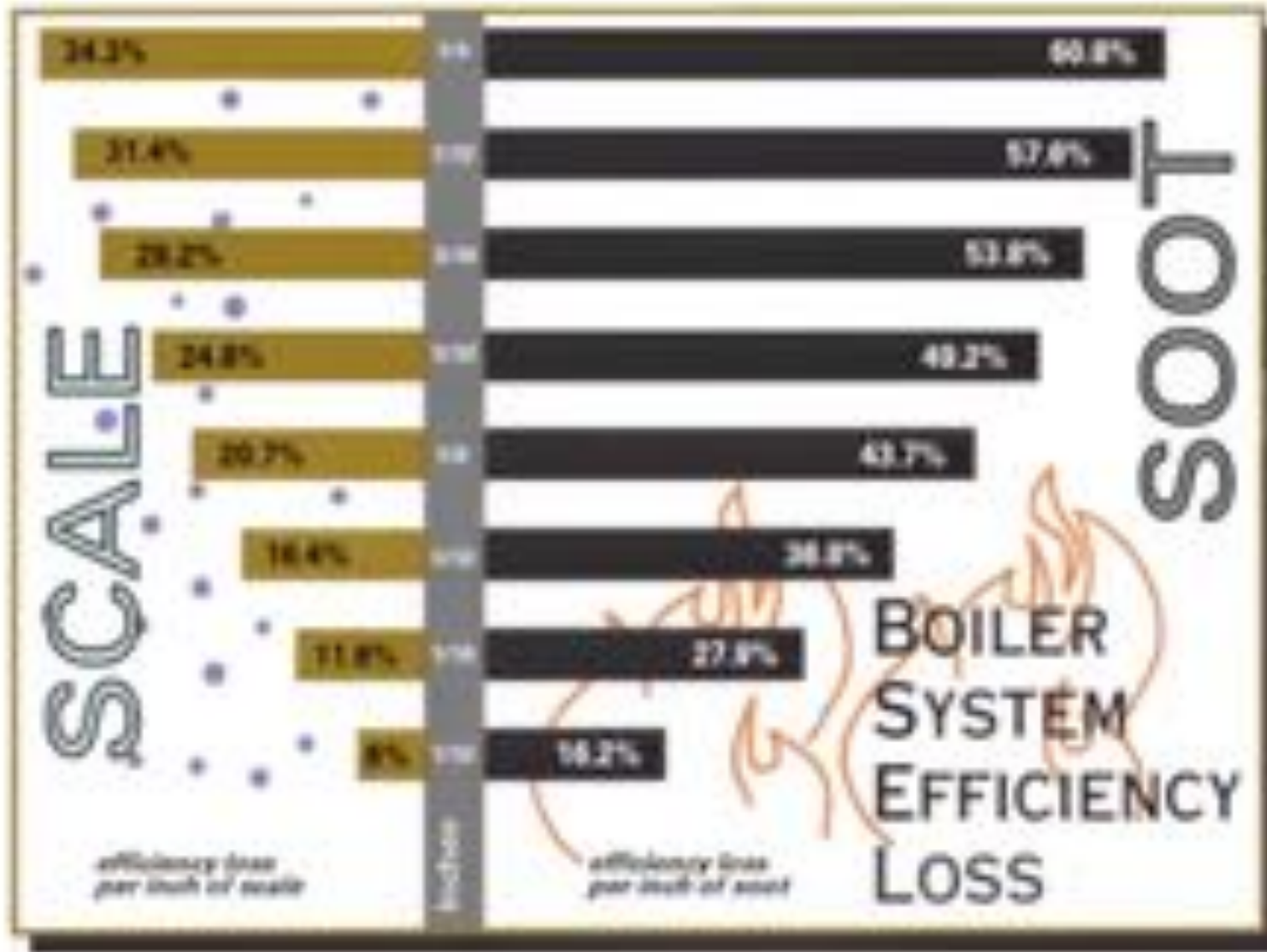
Lime scale
build up



Rust deposits



3 Types of Corrosion?



Source: Department of Building Inspection, Milwaukee, Wisconsin
 Calculated with formula from Mark's Standard for Mechanical Engineers, sixth edition

Myth?

Fact?

You don't worry about
treatment if your system
is all copper tube,
baseboard or PEX



Myth?

Fact?

Demineralized, Deionized
& Reverse Osmosis water
are all the same, and do
not need further
treatment

What's the best solution?



	CHEMICAL DIFFERENCES	EFFECTS ON SYSTEM	RISK OF LIMESCALE	(Galvanic) RISK OF CORROSION
Untreated water	Numerous chemicals in solution, often including calcium ions and bicarbonates	As the temperature increases, the calcium carbonate precipitates and forms limescale	High	High
Softened water	Has the same saline content as untreated water but with low levels of calcium and magnesium, which are replaced by sodium	Only a minimal quantity of salts precipitate	Medium - low	Medium
Softened water with chemical conditioning	Numerous chemicals in solution, with the addition of corrosion-proofing agents and hardness stabilisers	As the temperature increases, a minimal quantity of salts may precipitate	Low	Low
Demineralised water	Almost entirely free from chemicals in solution. Electrical conductivity is very low	No salts precipitate and the galvanic effects with different materials are drastically reduced	Absent	Absent

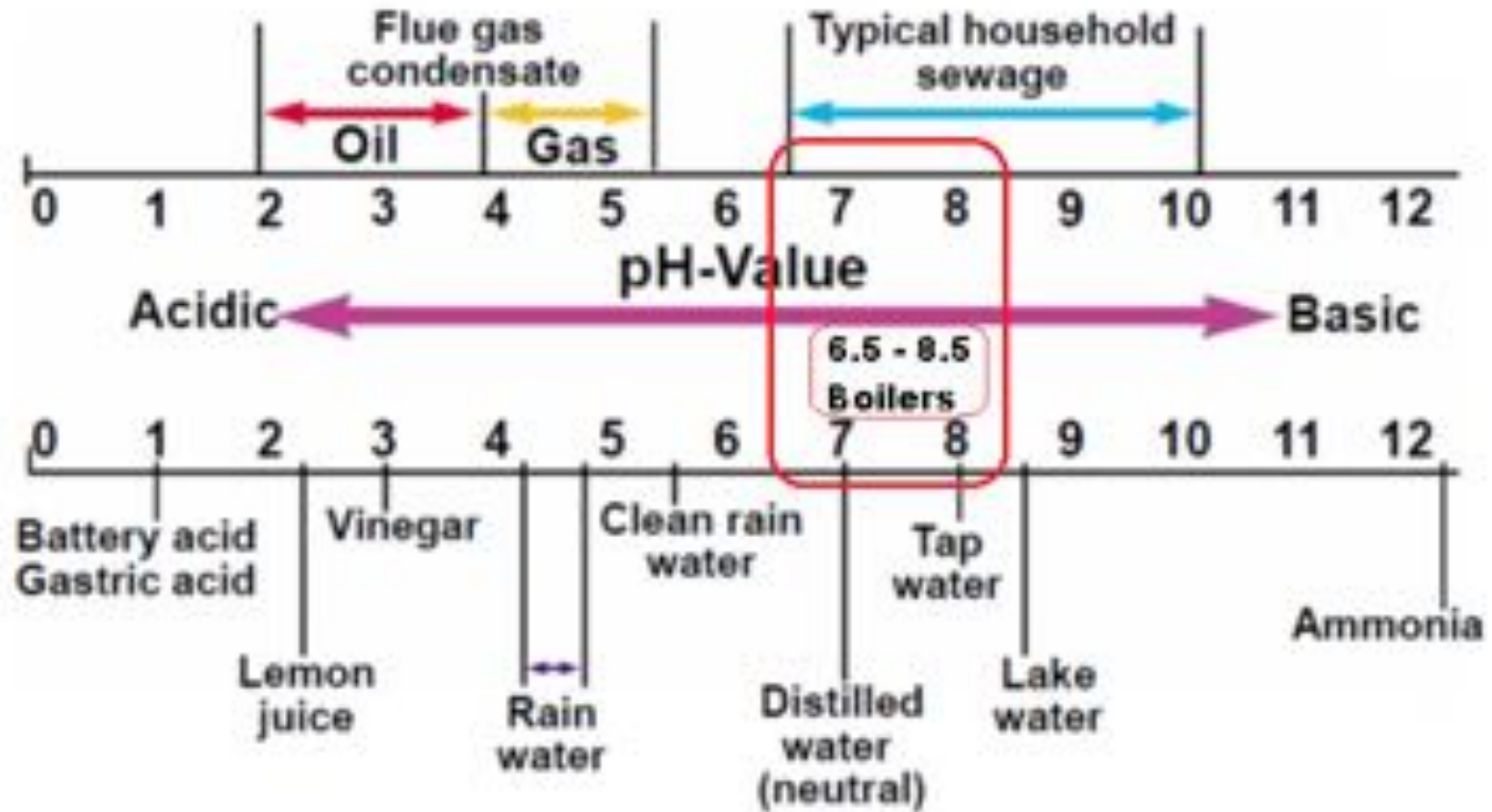


Myth?

Fact?

A little bit (10-20%) of
Glycol will protect the
boiler system

pH VALUES OF VARIOUS FLUIDS



Myth?

Fact?

Inhibitors alone will
provide adequate
protection from
corrosion

Test – 90 Minutes



Test – 150 Minutes



Test – 2 Days



Myth?

Fact?

Air and Dirt separators, with or without magnets, were originally designed for Air Removal on the Supply Side of your system

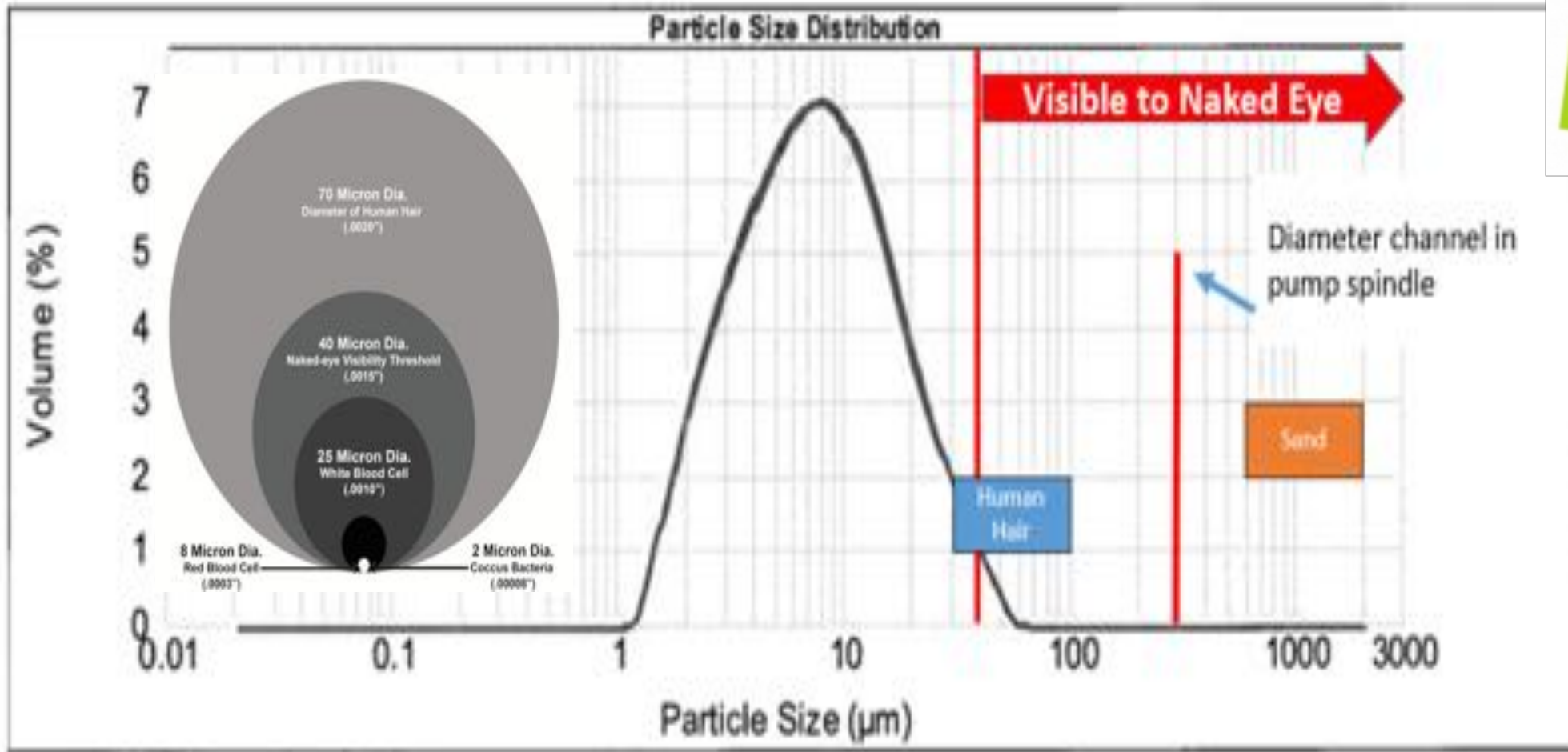


Some Issues

- Pump seals leaking
- IFC's stuck
- Circulators seized
- Zone valves hung up
- Low water cutoff probes fouled
- Plugged heat exchangers in modcons
- Percolating boilers (noise in modcons)
- Aluminum boilers vulnerable



Magnetic Particle Size







What's the
solution?

TM



How Do You Counteract Corrosion?

So, what can you do about water quality issues?



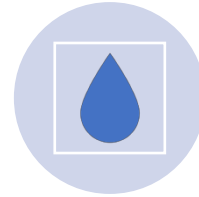
ENSURE ADEQUATE
PUMP/FLOW SIZING



USE FILTERS/STRAINERS
TO CATCH LARGER
DEBRIS,



USE MAGNETIC
FILTRATION ON RETURN
TO THE BOILER(S)



TREAT BOILER FEED
WATER.



USE A CORROSION AND
SCALE INHIBITOR ON
EVERY JOB.



REPAIR SYSTEM LEAKS
AS SOON AS POSSIBLE.



ANNUAL TEST OF
SYSTEM WATER

Fill Water Options:

**Untreated
Water**



Chemically Treat

**Softened
Water**



Galvanic Corrosion
Limescale Formation

***Galvanic
Corrosion***

**Demineralized Water
plus inhibitors**



Then you should be protecting your boilers!!

Would You Wear
Protection for
This?



Thank You!