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Episode 34 Is Salt Really Just Salt

Mike Urbans and Bryon Maze discuss the various types of salt used by professional water treatment dealers.

Facts

- You can only dissolve 2.647 pounds of salt in a gallon of water.
- Bridging is when the salt solidifies in the brine tank.
 - Improper design
 - Improper setting of floats in brine grids
 - Lack of use – vacation home
- Cation Softening
 - Sodium exchanges with calcium and magnesium or
 - Potassium exchange with calcium and magnesium
- Anion
 - Chloride exchanges with nitrates

Solar Salt

- Naturally formed in warmer, drier, arid climates, typically in the Caribbean.
- Water is impounded in shallow ponds, so the concentration increases and forms crystals.
- It is harvested and cleaned for use.
- Has potential to cause “sludge” in brine tanks due to other impurities found
- Resin cleaner is added and not impregnated on the salt crystal
- Available commercially at most big box or grocery stores.

Pellet Salt

- Better than solar salt, not quite as pure as cube salt
- Resin cleaner is impregnated into the pellets as an option
- Seldom causes bridging
- Available commercially at most big box or grocery stores

Cube Salt

- Cube salt is a pure salt – 99.8%. Some of it has a resin cleaning additive.
- Manufactured through vacuum pan evaporation.
- It is produced in Canada
- Used by many water treatment dealers to differentiate from products sold by big box outlets.
- Resin cleaner is impregnated in the cubes as an option



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Potassium Chloride Salt

- It takes much more potassium chloride to regenerate a softener
- Potassium takes the place of sodium in the exchange reaction

Rock Salt

- This is not the rock salt which is used to dissolve ice
- It comes from New Orleans and sells primarily in the Mid-West.
- Several manufacturers have color sorters which shoot over a light beam to determine purity
- Generally not recommended

Cost

- Cost can fluctuate and is driven by over the road transportation expense.
- Using a higher quality salt may prevent service calls.
 - Dirt stuck in the valve or brine line.
 - Bridging
- Supply Chain issues have not significantly affected supply. Primary issue is manpower.

Commercial / Industrial Applications

- Brine maker placed remotely to enable bulk delivery of salt.
 - Cost savings
 - Prevents worker injury from lifting bags

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