

## Effect of Sand and Fly Ash on Spent Wash Quality

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**Authors' contributions** This work was carried out in collaboration between four authors. Author BK designed the study, wrote the protocol and wrote the first draft of the manuscript. Authors AU and DB reviewed the experimental design and all drafts of the manuscript. Author RSB managed the analyses of the study. Authors DB and AU performed the statistical analysis. All authors read and approved the final manuscript.

### ABSTRACT:

Adsorption 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 treatment method for purification of distillery spent wash by using Sand and Fly ash. For this, the study encompassing evaluation of reduction of various physical chemical parameters (color, odor, pH, COD, TS, TDS, Ca, Mg, Na and K) of distillery spent wash was checked by passing through the columns of Sand and Fly ash. 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 followed by Fly ash.

### Keywords:

“Spent wash”, “Absorbent”, “Fly ash”, “Sand”, “Chemical parameter”, “Irrigation”.

### 1. INTRODUCTION:

Increasing industrialization and ever increasing population is damaging the environment same is done by the disposal of untreated effluents. Various pollutants produced in industries directly or indirectly are accumulating in our environment. These pollutants cause severe degradation in pedosphere, hydrosphere, atmosphere and thus causing a potential menace to the health and welfare of mankind.

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 Shrivastava, 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, Odor, COD, TS, TDS, Na, K, Mg, and Ca) of distillery spent wash.
2. Effect of Different Textures of Sand and Fly ash on Physico Chemical Characteristics of Distillery Spent Wash.

## 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. FLY ASH:

Ash produced in small dark flecks by the burning of powdered coal or other materials and carried into the air is known as fly ash. It is mostly produced from thermal power plants.

## 4. MATERIAL AND METHODS:

### 4.1 Sample collection:

Effluents waste water (spent wash) was taken from a distillery, located in Dehradun. The factory uses molasses as the raw material. Samples were collected at main outlet of distillery in the first week of November 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.

## 4.2 Research Design:

Twelve plastic pots were filled with 2 kg soil in each, and wheat was grown (*Triticum aestivum*) Variety UP 2329. After 20 days of growth, three pots of each group were irrigated with 72 hour, 48 hour and 24 hour treated spent wash respectively and the 4<sup>th</sup> pot of each was used as control. On each irrigation date 500 ml of treated effluent (24 hour treated, 48 hour treated and 72 hour treated) was poured in each pot as previously discussed. Same time treated samples were collected in sterile reagent bottles for physical and chemical tests and stored at 4°C. Twelve columns of sand, fly ash and sand + fly ash (1:1) were prepared for treatment of distillery spent wash as follows:

**Table: 1.1 Designs of Columns of Sand, Fly ash and Sand + Fly ash (1:1)**

Columns filled with	Set-1	Set-2	Set-3	Set-4
	(24 hr treatment)	(48 hr treatment)	(72 hr treatment)	CONTROL (C)
Sand (SA)	SA-1	SA-2	SA-3	SA-C
Fly ash (FA)	FA-1	FA-2	FA-3	FA-C
Sand + Fly ash (1:1)	SAF-1	SAF-2	SAF-2	SAF-C

## 4.3 Physico Chemical Parameters Selected for analysis:

**4.3.1 Physical Parameters:** Color, Odor, pH, TS, TDS.

**4.3.2 Chemical parameters:** COD, Ca, Mg, Na & K.

**4.4 Measurement of Total Solids (TS):** Total solids were determined by measuring the residue left after evaporation of unfiltered samples (APHA 1995).

### 4.4.1 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).

### 4.5 Total Dissolved Solids (TDS):

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

#### 4.6 Measurement of pH:

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

#### 4.7 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.

##### 4.7.1 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.

#### 4.8 Determination of Ca and Mg:

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

#### 4.9 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 radiation is proportional to the concentration of Na/K and can be read at 529/768nm by using suitable optical filter device (Tondon 1998)

### 5. RESULT:

Table 1.4 shows that visible color of distillery effluent was dark brown having foul smell, with acidic nature ( pH 4.7 ) and contain TS-10000 mg/l, TDS-7600 mg/l, COD-8200 mg/l, Ca-2200 mg/l, Mg-1730 mg/l, Na-800 mg/l, and K-1700 mg/l. Table 1.4 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 while minimum changes are seen with Fly ash 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 1.4). COD (5218 mg/l), TS (5800 mg/l), TDS (5000 mg/l) were found minimum after 72 hour treatment with Sand (Table 1.4), maximum reductions in Ca (680 mg/l), Mg (580 mg/l), Na (500 mg/l), and K (880 mg/l) are seen after 72 hour treatment with Sand (Table 1.4). 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. While after treatment with Fly ash, pH changed to 6.0 ,TS (4167 mg/l),TDS (3918 mg/l),COD (4727 mg/l) ,Ca (351 mg/l),Mg (500 mg/l),Na (272 mg/l) and K (483 mg/l).After 72 hour treatment with Sand + Fly ash (1:1) pH change to 6.0,TS (3850 mg/l), TDS (3640 mg/l),COD(4450 mg/l),Ca (380 mg/l),Mg (450 mg/l),Na (290 mg/l) and K ( 450 mg/l),Table 1.4.

### 6. DISCUSSION:

Sand is a good adsorbent for color removal from spent wash and referred discoloration up to 99% while discoloration decreased with increasing concentration, reduction in COD from distillery effluent was found maximum 36.37% by using Sand while metallic ions are reduced as Ca (69.09%),Mg (66.47%), Na (37.5%) and K (48.24%) after 72hour treatment. While with fly ash reductions are seen as COD (42.35%),TS (58.33%),TDS (48.45%),Ca (84.05%),Mg (71.10%), Na (66%),K (71.79%) after 72 hour treatment. With (sand + fly ash (1:1)) following reductions are seen as COD (45.73%),TS (61.5%),TDS (52.11%),Ca (80.73%), Mg (73.99%),Na (63.75%) and K (73.53%) after 72 hour treatment. Changed distillery spent wash characteristic result in an altered growth of wheat plant and growth of wheat was increased by irrigation with 72 hour treated effluent treated with sand and sand + fly ash (1:1). Effluent was purified at a good level by Sand.

**7. CONCLUSION:**

On the basis of experimental result it could be conclude that treatment of distillery effluent by using Sand is one of the best adsorption methods for removal of pollutants from distillery spent wash and it can reshape the effluent characteristics so it could be used as irrigation water to reduce the pressure of application of chemical fertilizers and normal water irrigation. The study revealed that the diluted effluent could be beneficial for better growth of wheat plant which also enhances wheat seed germination. The adsorbent treatment method could be profitably practiced for removing the pollutants from distillery effluent and can reduce the ground water contamination. Sand can be used for this purpose successfully at commercial level in industries. While flyash also gave good results. Fly ash is a major problem of thermal power stations. Results of this investigation says that fly ash can be a good option for distillery spent was treatment thus it can reduce pollution in water as well as pollution caused by fly ash. Solid waste adsorbed by fly ash can be used to produce organic manure which needs further research.

**ACKNOWLEDGEMENT AND ADDITIONAL INFORMATION**

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**COMPETING INTERESTS**

Authors have declared that no competing interests exist.

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**Table: 1.2: Initial Physico Chemical Characteristics of Distillery Spent Wash before Treatment**

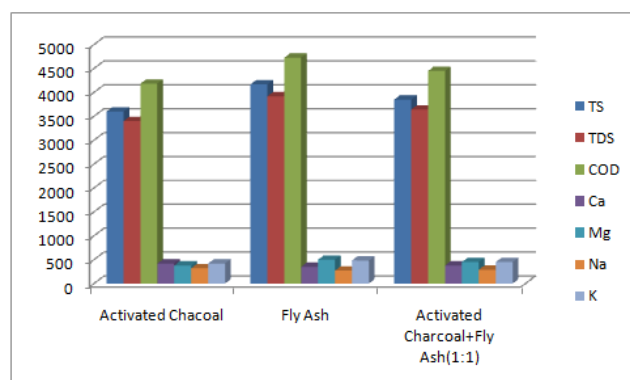
Parameters	Value
Color	Dark Brown Black
Odor	Foul Molasses
TS	10000 mg/l
TDS	7600 mg/l
pH	4.7
COD	8200 mg/l
Ca	2200 mg/l
Mg	1730 mg/l
Na	800 mg/l
K	1700 mg/l



**Table: 1.3: Effect of Sand and Fly ash on Color and Odor of Spent Wash**

Parameters	Sand			Fly ash			Sand+Fly Ash (1:1)		
	24hr SA-1	48hr SA-2	72hr SA-3	24hr FA-1	48hr FA-2	72hr FA-3	24hr SAF-1	48hr SAF-2	72hr SAF-3
Color	LB	CL	CL	B	LB	CL	LB	CL	CL
Odor	MO	MM	OL	MO	MM	OL	MO	MM	OL

LB: Light Brown, B: Brown, CL: Colorless, MO: Molasses Odor, MM: Mild Molasses, OL: Odorless



**Fig: Physico Chemical Characteristics of Distillery Spent Wash treated with Sand and Fly ash after 72 hour Treatment**

**Table: 1.4: Physico Chemical Characteristics of Distillery Spent Wash treated with Sand and Fly ash**

Para-meters	Original Sample	Sand			Fly Ash			Sand+Fly ash (1:1)		
		24hr SA-1	48hr SA-2	72hr SA-3	24hr FA-1	48hr FA-2	72hr FA-3	24hr SAF-1	48hr SAF-2	72hr SAF-3
TS	10000	6400	6200	5800	5625	4792	4167	5200	4390	3850
TDS	7600	5400	5200	5000	4701	4309	3918	4560	4250	3640
pH	4.7	5.1	5.3	5.4	5.2	5.5	6.0	5.4	5.6	6.0
COD	8200	5816	5464	5218	5467	5065	4727	5230	4800	4450
Ca	2200	760	720	680	447	414	351	490	450	380
Mg	1730	800	600	580	562	521	500	520	470	450
Na	800	620	540	500	347	302	272	380	330	290
K	1700	1060	1020	880	555	519	483	557	520	450

NOTE: All values in mg/lit except pH

**TABLE: 1.5: Percent Change in Physico Chemical Characteristics of Distillery Spent Wash Treated with Sand and Fly ash**

Para-meters	Original Sample	Sand			Fly ash			Sand+Fly ash (1:1)		
		24hr SA-1	48hr SA-2	72hr SA-3	24hr FA-1	48hr FA-2	72hr FA-3	24hr SAF-1	48hr SAF-2	72hr SAF-3
TS	3600	-36	-38	-42	-43.75	-52.08	-58.33	-48.00	-56.10	-61.50
TDS	7600	-28.95	-31.58	-34.21	-38.15	-43.30	-48.45	-40.00	-44.08	-52.11
pH	4.7	+8.51	+12.77	+14.89	+10.64	+17.02	+27.66	+14.89	+19.15	+27.66
COD	8200	-29.07	-33.37	-36.37	-33.33	-38.23	-42.35	-36.22	-41.46	-45.73
Ca	2200	-65.46	-67.27	-69.09	-79.68	-81.18	-84.05	-77.73	-79.55	-80.73
Mg	1730	-53.76	-65.32	-66.47	-67.51	-69.88	-71.10	-69.94	-72.83	-73.99
Na	800	-22.5	-32.5	-37.5	-56.63	-62.25	-66.00	-52.50	-58.75	-63.75
K	1700	-37.65	-40.00	-48.24	-67.35	-69.47	-71.59	-67.24	-69.41	-73.53

(=Increase,-Decrease)