

...For the Removal of Trace Levels of Perchlorate in Drinking Water

# **About Perchlorate...**

#### Where does Perchlorate come from?

Perchlorate is commonly found in our world through advancements in technology. It can be found in many forms from solid fuel rocket engines, explosives, automobile airbag deployment initiators and emergency signal flares, to pyrotechnic fireworks displays, bleaching agents in the paper industry, dyes in the textile industry and the common match stick. Perchlorate can also be found naturally in certain soil compositions around the world and in nitrogen-based fertilizers. All of which find their way into the global food supply through ground water sources.

### What are the human health impacts?

Perchlorate is among the acknowledged group of toxins called "Endocrine Disrupters" with its base component perchloric acid. Salts such as ammonium perchlorate, magnesium perchlorate, sodium perchlorate and potassium perchlorate have been introduced into our environment in its application as previously discussed.

The main impact to human health is through the thyroid gland. The perchlorate ion competes with the iodine uptake of the thyroid gland. This restricted iodide uptake potentially leads to a reduction in thyroid hormones resulting in hypothyroidism. Short term high exposure results in typical eye and skin irritation, coughing, nausea etc. Long term exposure could result in neuro-developmental defects due to decreased thyroid hormones (hyphothyroidism) that may lead to adverse skin, cardiovascular and pulmonary system issues, as well as nervous system disorders.



#### **Regulations and Treatment Options**

The EPA has committed to propose a National Primary Drinking Water Regulation for perchlorate by Q4 2025. A final regulation is targeted for Q2 2027.

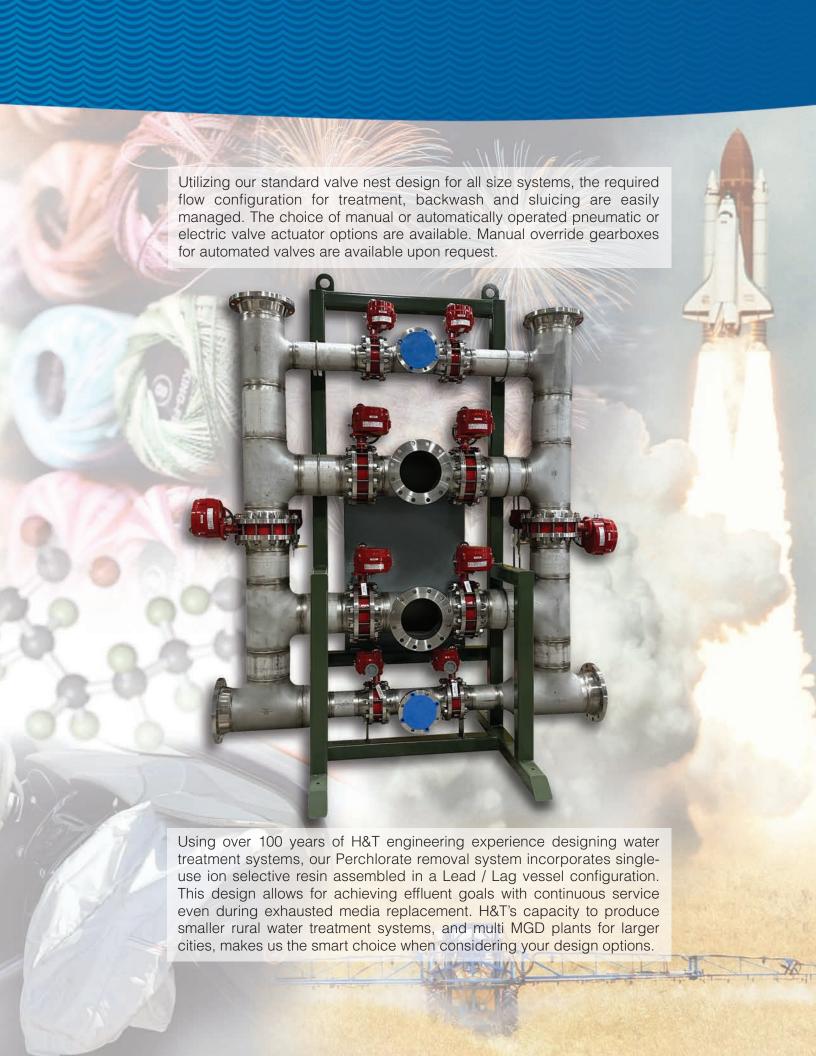
There are several treatment options currently to reduce perchlorate in ground water. Each of these treatment options have their pros & cons and should be evaluated by the client to determine which affords the best performance and cost benefits.

**Biological Technology** – Although the most environmentally accepted by the public, it is a very slow process with possible ecological risk and climatic restrictions that impact plant growth. Impractical for high capacity design.

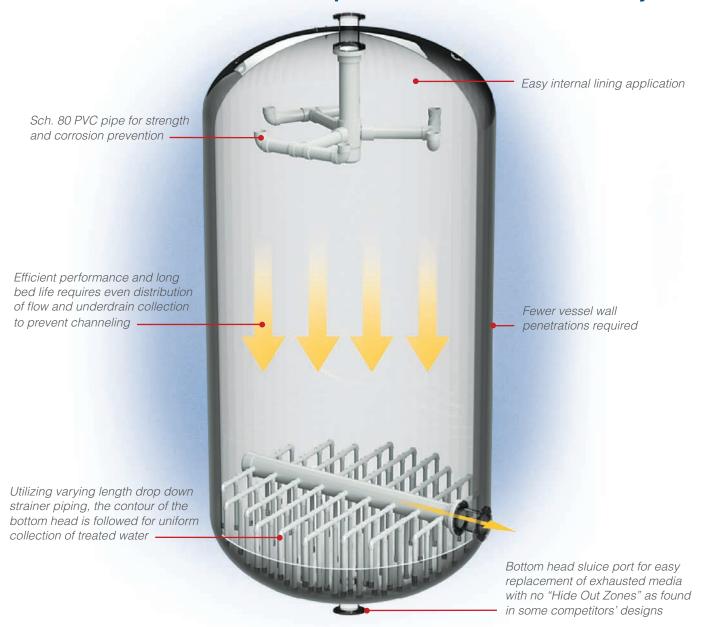
Membrane Technology – Only RO membrane treatment is suitable for perchlorate removal due to the smallest pore size of all membrane types, but it has very high capital and O&M costs. The high volume of the concentrated reject stream makes it undesirable for large scale service. Pretreatment for high TDS may be required.

Carbon (GAC) – Carbon has been proven to be effective at reducing many contaminants found in drinking water sources. This ability is both a positive and negative as carbon is non-selective and its adsorption sites intended for perchlorate will also adsorb other competing contaminants found in the water. Depending on the concentration levels of the other contaminants, this competition could result in shortened media service life. Disposal of exhausted carbon should only be through incineration. Landfill may cause perchlorate to desorb and contaminate local areas.

lon Selective Resin – (Single Use Resin) Unlike regenerable ion resin where a large brine waste stream is created, single use resin is a proven technology for large scale systems containing both high and low concentration perchlorate contamination. The high affinity for perchlorate reduces long-term operating costs due to few competing contaminants resulting in longer media life. Short contact time requirements allow for smaller vessel size, lower media volumes and reduced overall system footprint requirements.



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226 N. Atlantic Avenue • PO Box 650 • Clayton, NJ 08312-0650 P: 856-881-3200 • sales@hungerfordterry.com • www.hungerfordterry.com