



SOAP FACTORY EFFLUENTS

Feasibility Study on the Economic recovery of the useful Components.

BY

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1. INTRODUCTION

1.1. Soap

Chemically, the term "soap" is limited to the salts of non-volatile fatty acids or to compounds of these fatty acids formed with certain organic bases. The American Society for testing materials defines soap as "the product formed by the saponification or neutralization of fats, oils, waxes or rosins, or their acids, with organic or inorganic bases". Not all soaps are cleansing agents. Only the water soluble Potassium, Sodium, Ammonium and certain organic base salts are used extensively for this purpose. Other salts of the fatty acids are insoluble in water. They have wide technical uses, but are not for cleaning purposes; they are classified with the over-all designation "metallic soaps". (Thomssen and Mc Cutcheon 1949).

1.2. Full boiled method of soap manufacture.

This is the method employed by most of the soap manufacturers in Sri Lanka. The oil charge is taken into a pan and heated by open steam. While this is done, the alkali solution is gradually led into the pan. Boiling with the open steam is continued until all the oil is almost completely saponified when a homogeneous pasty mass results.

