

Consortium on microplastics release during household washing processes

Public update on project – Part I

Signed by



New members have joined the Consortium

Four additional companies have joined the consortium which now brings the numbers of signatories to *18 members*. The additional companies are *bmp Europe, Elettrotecnica Rold, UFI Filter and Vestel*.

Work done so far

- An initial test protocol was established and agreed as a basis for the feasibility study.
- Test materials containing fibers and particles were designed and samples were produced, but not yet tested because preparation and pre-tests are ongoing (see figures 1 to 6).
- Testing will include a variation of household washing machines and a selection of washing programme parameters (e.g. mechanics, water level, temperature).
- One basic element of the feasibility study is a standardized liquid detergent; different base loads are under investigation.
- First pre-tests were conducted to set up an appropriate measurement equipment (filter cascades with 3 different mesh sizes) to collect and filter the effluent from washing machines; use of interim tanks where to collect the water to filter is under consideration (see figure 7 and 8).
- Pre-tests are ongoing to solve issues of insoluble chemical and physical particles causing blockage of filters while running the tests (see figure 9).
- Several types of textiles (standard cotton, poly-cotton, polyester and acetate) were used in pre-tests so far.

Timeline

Due to intensive pre-tests the feasibility study will take longer than originally planned, but it will deliver more results to support the development of a standardized testing methodology.

Photos

See in the next page - *please note the material/products displayed are under developments and they are not available on the market.*

For more information or if interested in joining the Consortium, please contact [Giulia Zilla](mailto:Giulia.Zilla@applia-europe.eu), Policy Manager, APPLiA Energy & Environment at giulia.zilla@applia-europe.eu



Figure 1 - Acetate load



Figure 2 - ATAK-A attached on load item



Figure 3 - ATAK-A original



Figure 4 - ATAK-A washed



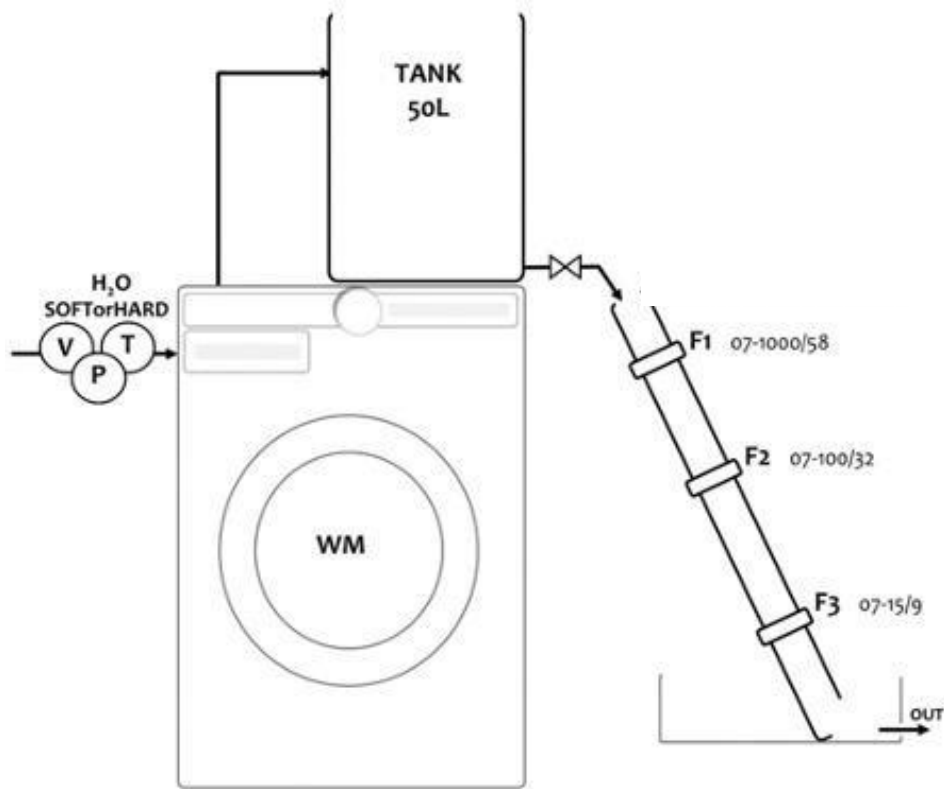


Figure - 7 Example of a laundry unit and three-level gravity filtering system (i.e. filter cascade)

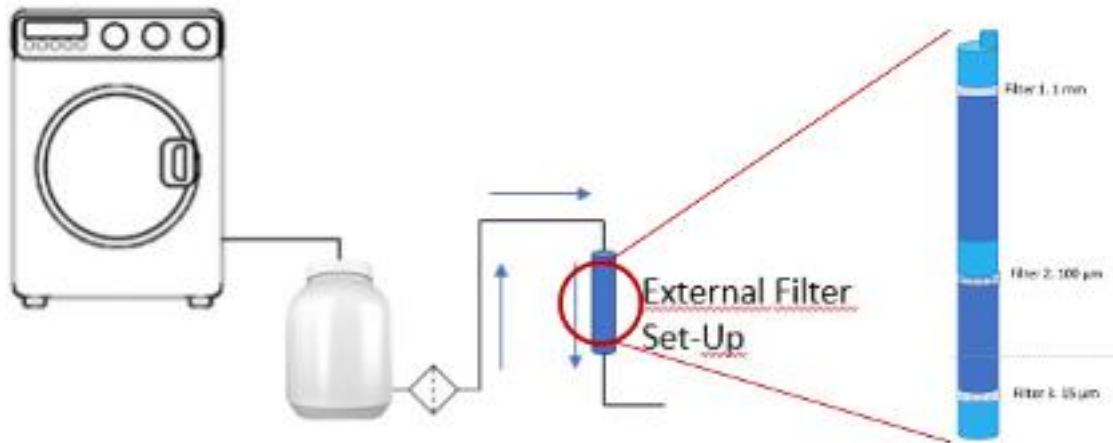


Figure 8 - Another example of a laundry unit and three-level gravity filtering system (i.e. filter cascade)



Figure 9 - Example of residual on filter after a pre-test