

# New approach to medicine residues in wastewater

Researchers in the Environmental Technology chair group have selected three promising methods for removing medicine residues from wastewater. A closed purification system with manganese and bacteria turns out to be suitable for breaking down diclofenac residues. A marsh system with plants and sediment could be an effective option for removing other medicines from wastewater. A third method consists of a three-phase purification process with a biological reactor, ozone and bacteria. Water boards, engineering consultancies and drinking water companies are involved in the projects. New affordable and effective medicine purification systems are expected to be on the market within five to ten years.

Medicine residues in the surface water cause a lot of problems, for example with fish changing sex due to oestrogen from contraceptive pills, or vultures getting kidney failure and dying after consuming the painkiller diclofenac, as happened in India. Info: [alette.langenhoff@wur.nl](mailto:alette.langenhoff@wur.nl)