

## SODA FOUNTAINS

Because fountain beverages are a significant source of revenue, consumers can find their favorite carbonated and non-carbonated beverages in most restaurants and convenience stores. However, if a fountain drink is flat, tastes poorly or the customer gets spattered with syrup at the dispenser, it could be a lost customer and lost future revenue. A good water filtration system can ensure quality and consistency and is affordable.

An off taste in the drink can be from a number of sources, such as a new flavor being run through a beverage line that previously ran a different flavor. Or, the syrup is expired. Or, the dispensing valves haven't been sanitized on a regular basis. Or, there is too little syrup in the brix ratio. If you have ever tasted straight carbonated water, it's sour due to the carbonic acid and low pH. If the restaurant serves unlimited refills, you can bet that the drink will be dumped quickly and refilled with another flavor, costing the restaurant money. Too little CO<sub>2</sub> can also cause a flat-tasting beverage.

The most likely reason for an off taste in a fountain drink is the contaminants in the water. Chlorine and chloramines oxidize and break down organic molecules of sugars in water. These reactions will produce many different compounds that can negatively influence the taste of a beverage. These reactions and byproducts can actually amplify the taste of the chlorine. In addition, because free chlorine is a gas, it will gas off along with the carbonation after the drink is poured, creating a "swimming pool" smell.

Other taste and odor problems caused by water contaminants include: Rotten egg smell, which is caused by hydrogen sulfide in water, produced by bacteria in deep wells and in low-use stagnant water mains. Earthy and moldy/mildew taste and odors, which are caused by algae, molds and bacteria, such as actinomycetes and cyanobacteria that naturally live in lake and river water sources.

Cloudy - suspended particles can cause light to scatter, giving beverages a milky or cloudy appearance. This suspended matter can be silt, clay, debris from plants, animals, Biofilm or particles released during corrosion such as rust; turbidity is a term used to describe water with high suspended solids. Color - tannins caused by decaying organic matter in surface water will often give beverages a yellowish tint; this is especially noticeable in clear lemon-lime drinks and iced teas.

Biocon filters have been validated to meet Coca Cola's water treatment specifications.

