

New, patented, 'in situ' bioremediation product for water and wastewater

Greasy water? Algae problem? Noxious smell?

# Take pills—big ones



by Jana Schilder

"Plop, flop, fizz, fizz. Oh, what a relief it is!" was the jingle of a popular 1970s North American TV commercial for Alka Seltzer, a medication for upset stomachs. Drop it in a glass of water and it starts to work.

A new Canadian company, based in Brampton, Ontario, is using the same principles of chemistry and physics to help municipalities, restaurants, golf courses, and hog farms deal easily and effectively with a range of by-products including: fat, oil, and grease (F.O.G.), odour, algae, sludge, and wastewater.

The new patented product, called Blixitt, has a number of applications including: municipal, residential, and

golf ponds; restaurant grease traps; horticultural lagoons; portable toilets; and septic tanks.

"We stumbled across the product in 2007. We first took the Canadian distribu-

tion rights for five years, but things just snowballed," says Michel Thivierge, 46, founder and president of Blixitt.

Blixitt is a green product, too. It is not regulated by the U.S. Environmental Protection

## Blixitt Benefits

- **Eco-safe, user-friendly.**
- **Reduces odour: with regular application, eliminates 97% of noxious odours.**
- **Reduces labour costs: easy application, no costly equipment needed.**
- **Reduces waste management costs, like regular pumping and dredging. With regular application, Blixitt can reduce sludge accumulation by up to 25%.**
- **Reduces emergency and insurance costs, such as backed-up pipes and blocked sewers. Blixitt prevents pipe corrosion.**

Blixitt founders Michel Thivierge, right, and Marcus Paul, left, with hockey puck-sized Blixitt tablets. When applied to municipal ponds, Blixitt deals effectively with algae and sludge. Blixitt tablets break down fats in restaurant grease traps so that they can be safely flushed into the municipal sewage system.

And because Blixitt also helps to deal with hydrogen sulfide, municipalities can save thousands of dollars in infrastructure costs.

Agency (E.P.A.), conforms to the *Clean Water Act*, and requires no WHIMIS training.

## Trials in 15 countries

"So far, Blixitt has been an industrial, B-to-B product. It's not a household name yet," says Thivierge. The product is being tried out in more than 15 countries.

"We've only recently started marketing in Canada. Blixitt is already doing well in Singapore, Hong Kong, and the Middle East," says Thivierge.

## Reduces odour, cuts grease

"Restaurants, for example, have seen cost savings between 20 and 30% in their grease trap costs by using Blixitt on a regular basis," says business development director Marcus Paul, 42.

He adds that with regular use of Blixitt, the frequency of pumping grease traps is often reduced as well, resulting in further savings for restaurants. Solid fats are broken

down and transformed. The cleansing process is continued all the way along the disposal system, so solid fats can be safely flushed into the municipal sewage system.

In Canada, field trials are underway at Swiss Chalet, Best Western Hotels, major hotel chains, Hy's Steakhouse, Mexicali Rosas Restaurant, and soon at the City of Guelph.

## Reduces algae, sludge accumulation

Used in golf course and municipal ponds, Blixitt cuts down on algae, reduces noxious odors, and sludge. It even helps to control the mosquito population and reduces the spread of viruses such as Avian Botulism and West Nile Virus, an attractive side benefit of Blixitt since the Province of Ontario banned pesticides in spring 2009.

"Blixitt tablets are environmentally safe and easy to apply. Try them in one pond. You will soon be using Blixitt in all of them," says Martin

Koop, golf course superintendent at the Brampton Golf Club, who has been using Blixitt for the past three years.

"Blixitt is effective in eliminating grease build-up and controlling odours," says Tony O'Donohue, a Toronto-based environmental engineer with 40 years of experience in managing municipalities.

## How Blixitt works

Blixitt tablets are white and slightly thicker than a hockey puck. Blixitt tablets give off a time-released combination of aerobic bacteria, oxygen, nutrients, and buffers.

Aerobic bacteria—just like aerobic exercise—are good bacteria and they attack anaerobic bacteria—the nasty, odor-causing ones. Anaerobic decomposition (without oxygen) is the main cause of noxious odors which are mostly hydrogen sulfide, known to most of us as that rotten egg smell.

Blixitt tablets create oxygen bubbles 10 times smaller than a machine aerator. These microscopic bubbles make it easier to penetrate grease layers and solids, as well as increasing total oxygen surface area.

"Blixitt does all of this in one application without any additional materials or equipment," says Paul. Application depends on square feet or square acreage to be treated.

## Savings for municipalities

"Left untreated, hydrogen sulfide can turn into sulfuric acid, a toxic and corrosive gas that can damage municipal wastewater pipes and sewers," says Paul.

## A closer look at Blixitt



KING'S RIDING GOLF CLUB  
7TH Hole  
Clublink

## Applications

- 1. Ponds:** Municipal ponds, golf courses, residential ponds, ornamental fountains (non-potable)
- 2. Agricultural Treatments:** Livestock manure lagoons, horticultural irrigation water
- 3. Waste Water:** Municipal wastewater treatment plants, food processing wastewater
- 4. Grease Traps:** Industrial and commercial grease traps
- 5. Portable Toilets:** Boating, airplanes, RVs, portable toilets (construction, rock concerts)
- 6. Septic Tanks:** Cottages, cabins, remote housing

## A 'green' product

- Blixitt conforms to the U.S. *Clean Water Act*
- Blixitt is non-hazardous and does not require warning labels
- Blixitt does not leave toxic residue
- Blixitt is not regulated by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (E.P.A.)
- Requires no WHMIS (Workman's Hazardous Material Information System) training
- Demonstrate environmental leadership

The rotten egg smell has been a problem along Toronto's Humber River and the upscale Beaches area. Blixitt deals effectively with the smell as well.

"Dealing with the hydrogen sulfide problem earlier in the sewage treatment process would save municipalities thousands, if not millions of dollars, in infrastructure costs," says Paul.



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