WEDC Developing knowledge and capacity in water and sanitation

POSTER 02

The three-pot water treatment system

Storage and sedimentation

The simplest method of treatment is storage in a covered pot. If the water can be stored for at least two days, schistosomes (small larvae which cause bilharzia) will die. It will also contain considerably fewer bacteria because these slowly die off because the conditions in the pot are not normally suitable for their survival and multiplication. Pathogens (i.e. disease causing organisms including some types of bacteria) attached to suspended solids will settle to the bottom of the tank together with the solids, further purifying the stored water.

At domestic scale the simple three pot system can be used to promote settlement during storage.

The system

Drinking water should always be taken from pot 3. This water has been stored for at least two days, and the quality has improved. Periodically this pot will be washed out and may be sterilized by scalding with boiling water.

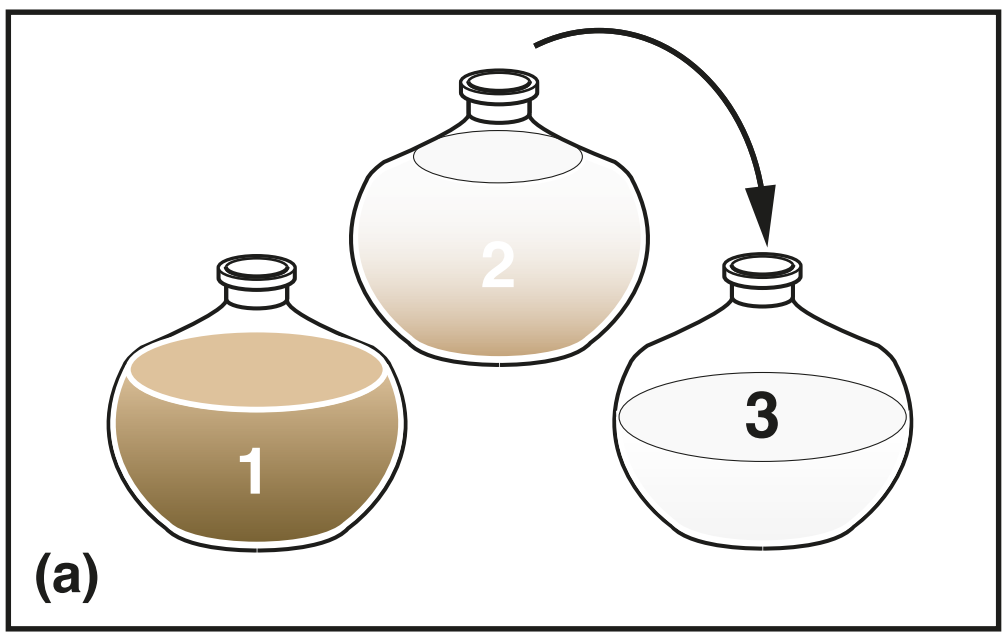
Each day when new water is brought to the house:

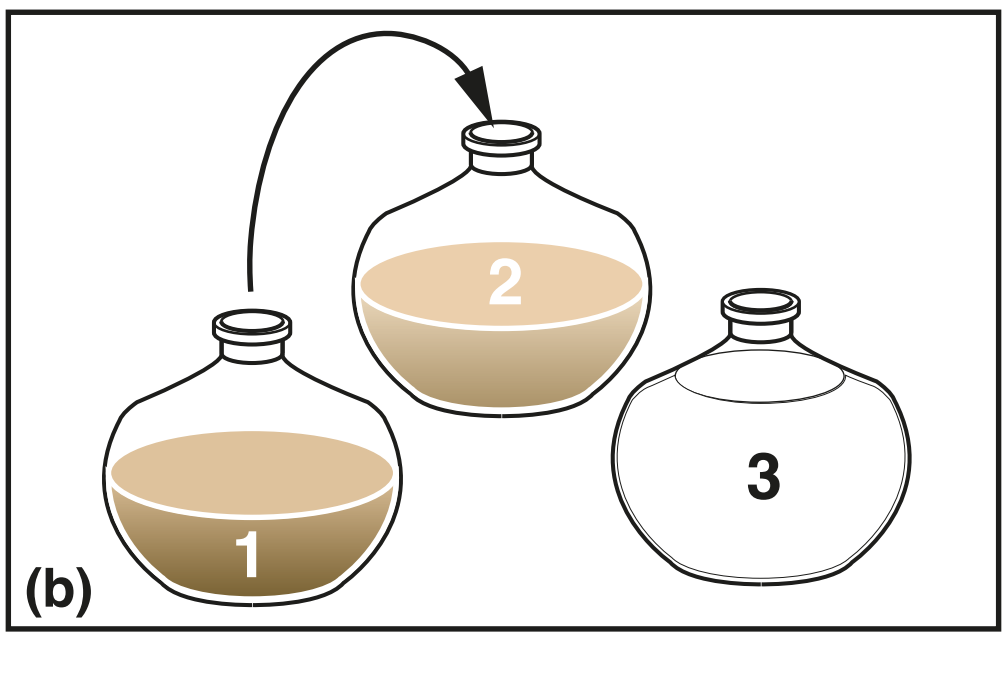
(a) Slowly pour water stored in Pot 2 into Pot 3, wash out Pot 2.

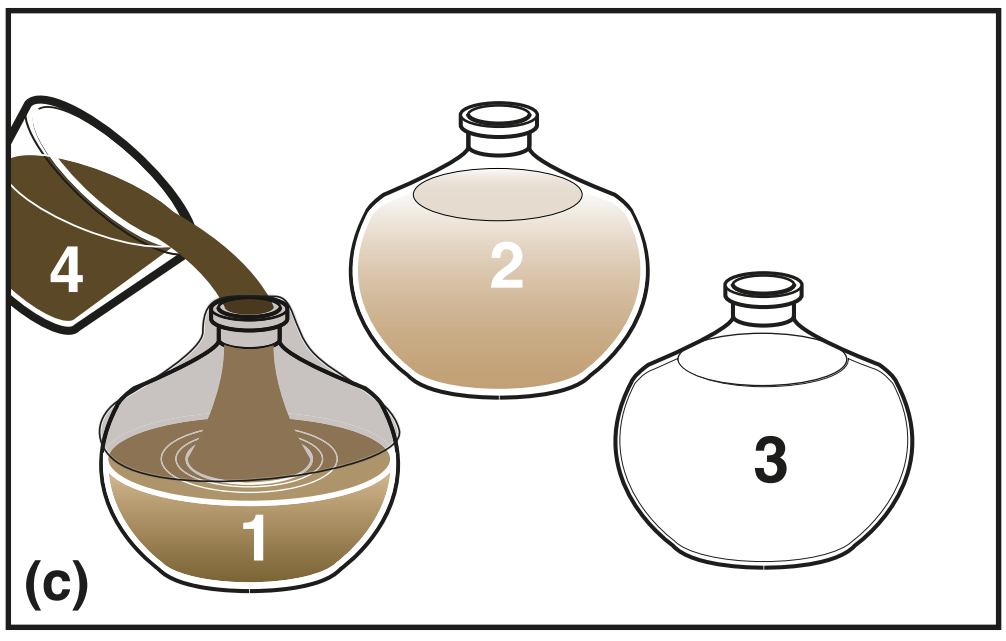
(b) Slowly pour water stored in Pot 1 into Pot 2, wash out Pot 1.

(c) Pour water collected from the source (Bucket 4) into Pot 1. You may wish to strain it through a clean cloth.

Using a flexible pipe to siphon water from one pot to another disturbs the sediment less than pouring.







Source: SKINNER, B. H. 2003. *Small-scale Water Supply: A Review of Technologies*. Rugby, UK: Practical Action Publishing

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