

## **HARD WATER SCALE IS ESTIMATED TO COST BRITISH INDUSTRY CLOSE TO £1 BILLION A YEAR**

The huge cost of hard water scale to British industry has been estimated at between £800-900 million annually.

In hard water areas, incrustation of water tubing, boilers, coils, jets, sprinklers, cooling towers, heat exchangers, or wherever industry uses heated hard water, can no longer be considered a hidden problem.

As everyone knows, water hardness is due to various dissolved salts, mainly carbonates and sulphates such as those of calcium and magnesium, which when heated produces an insoluble precipitate of scale-forming crystals. Crystals grow by bonding to each other and to water contact surfaces to form scale.

Scale formation affects performance. Just 1mm of scale adds 7 1/2% to energy costs, 1.5mm adds 15%, and 12mm demands a staggering 70% cost increase. But the problem of energy costs is only part of the story. There are all the additional problems and maintenance costs of scale removal, anything from inconvenience to total plant shutdowns in severe cases.