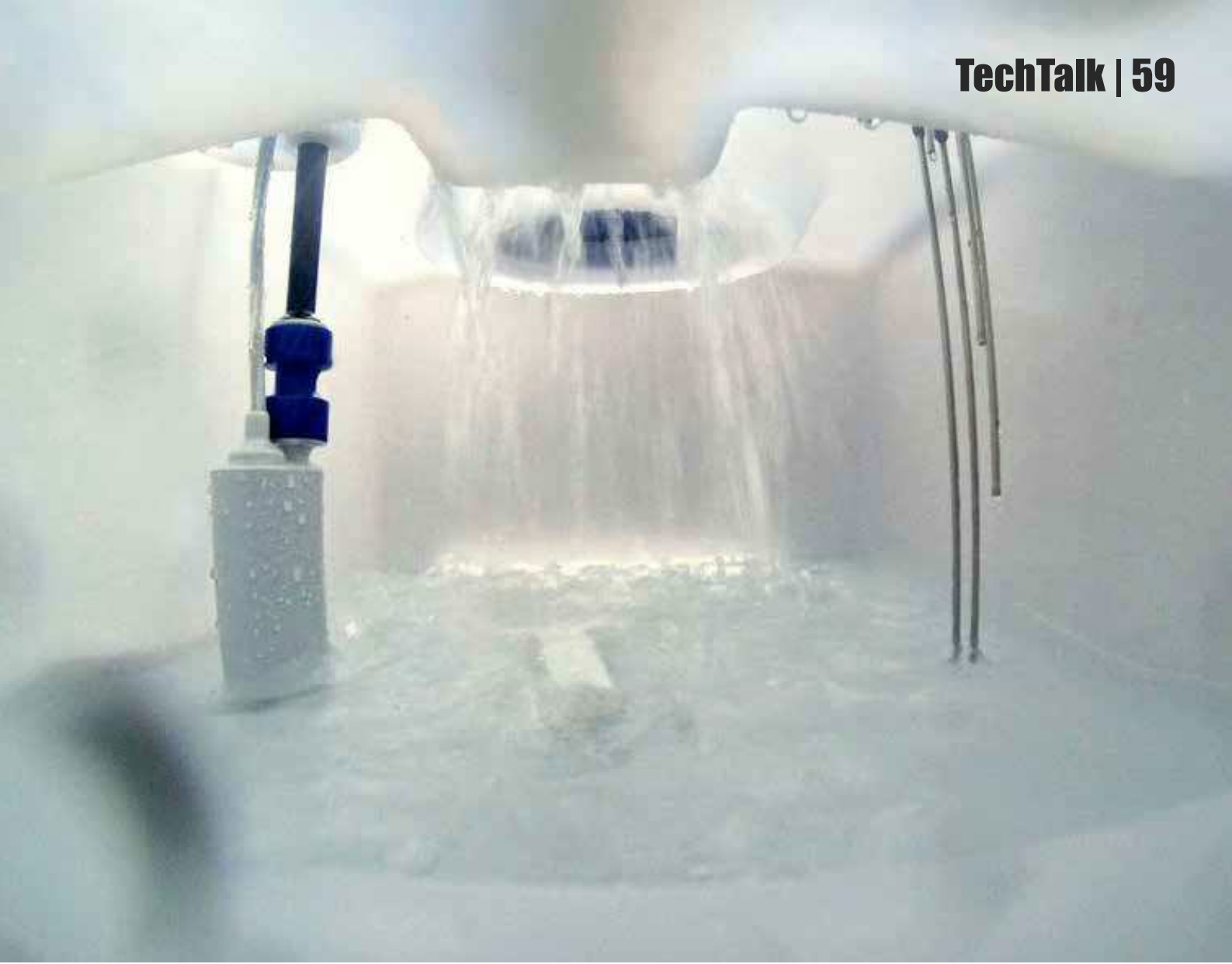


Tanks A Lot!

**Our new resident Techspert from
Southern Spirit Campervans shares
tips and invites your questions...**



This issue we take a look at your vehicle's fresh water system and how to get the most from it. Regular maintenance is – or should be – part and parcel of the RV ownership experience. A recent survey of motorhome owners by a German magazine found 58% perform an annual system clean-out and 16% clean more than once a year, but 26% have never cleaned their systems. It's likely statistics in Australia would be the same or worse!

All except the oldest or most basic campervans and motorhomes have a fresh water tank and at least one filter fitted. Basically there are two types of filters: Those for the water pump and those to improve the quality of your fresh water.

Pump Filters

Every water pump has a filter to protect it from damage. The filter is installed between the tank and 12 V (or 24 V) pump, which you'll often find under the body of your vehicle. One reason such a filter is important is that without it most pump manufacturers will void the warranty.

These little filters often have a cap that can be unscrewed without uninstalling the whole filter. Inside the cap is usually a small fine filter that can be taken out and cleaned, which you do simply by rinsing and cleaning away any muck with clean water. As the filter's job is to protect the water pump from sand, sediment and small particles it's essential to check and clean this filter on a regular base. I would suggest



every couple of months as the job should take less than five minutes. If you find a lot of residue in the filter in a short period of time the chances are you have a lot of ‘rubbish’ in your tank. What you definitely don’t want is a broken water pump while on a trip, so check and clean the filter regularly and you’ll likely get a longer life span out of your pump too.

Other Filters

Another filter type is one that attaches to your filler hose, filtering the water before it enters the tank. One such popular product is the **inline lter** from BEST, which can also be used when connected to mains water. This way you not only prevent sediment and other solids entering, you also prevent the formation of biofilm – a slimy film of microorganisms – in your water system.

Often you’ll find drinking water filters as permanent fittings in your vehicle’s plumbing system and chances are you’ll find them somewhere underneath the sink. With these,



make sure you follow the instructions of the filter manufacture and change the filters or cartridges as required (some have reminder/information stickers). In case you’ve bought a used RV or are just unsure, change them



anyway. Such filter systems can also be fitted aftermarket and are a worthwhile inclusion in any recreational vehicle.

The life cycle of most filters is one year. However, if your system is infected with biofilm they might only last a couple of months. Such water filters not only make your water taste better, they also make it healthier and safer.

Cleaning Up

Finally, how often do you clean your RV's water system? Have you ever cleaned it? Well, there's no time like the present! It's recommended at least once a year.

If your tank has a large inspection cap – like **Fiamma tanks** – you can do a visual check and manual clean. If not, give the tank a flush by filling it while leaving the pump filter cap off to let the water run out, as a first step. Then use a tank sanitiser like **Waterpure** or **Tank Clean** to improve the quality in your fresh water tank as well as the whole system. We

recommend using proven products and not DIY recipes with baking soda, chlorine or vinegar, especially as some actually encourage biofilm development.



Ask The Techspert!

If you have any maintenance questions or problems email us at techtalk@imotorhome.com.au and we'll see what we can sort out. Please include photos as well as a description of any problems and we'll share them and the answers with all our readers.