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Inventor(s)	Clarke; Colin John et al.

Systems and methods for point of use water modification

Abstract

A water use management system may be installed in a setting that contains a primary infrastructure for water use to provide an alternate, modular infrastructure for water use. Fresh water used at various points of use, such as a shower or sink, may be modified by a point of use water conditioner. Water may be modified at the point of use based upon pre-configured routines or manual user selections. Treatments performed on the water may include quality treatments, such as modifying the pH or mineral content, and may also include experience treatments, such as the addition of scents, colors, carbonation, or health and beauty supplements. Additives used during treatment are provided in cartridges that may be inserted and removed from the water conditioner. Cartridges may self-identify when inserted, to aid in compatibility and usability determinations and recycling/recertification processes.

Inventors: Clarke; Colin John (Basingstoke, GB), Beznik; Frantz (Brussels, BE), Connolly; Anna L (Newcastle, GB), Sanders; Dai (Warwick, GB), Kane; Grace (Warwick, GB), Jones; Chris (Tewkesbury, GB), Wallace; Andrew (Long Itchington, GB), Taylor; Benedict (Leamington Spa, GB), Kilburn; Miles (Leamington Spa, GB), Wright; Stephen (Warwick, GB)

Applicant: The Procter & Gamble Company (Cincinnati, OH)

Family ID: 1000008763013

Assignee: The Procter & Gamble Company (Cincinnati, OH)

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Primary Examiner: Cecil; Terry K

Background/Summary

FIELD

(1) The present disclosure relates to systems and methods for managing domestic storage, treatment, and use of water.

BACKGROUND

(2) Water scarcity is becoming an increasing problem for many countries, with the scale of the impact affected by multiple factors such as population growth, climate change and the increasing

demands of both industry and agriculture. Thus, the demand for water is likely to become further strained in the decades ahead, and indeed many global cities face supply vs demand shortages that cannot be met by today's strategies. One approach to ensuring residential homes have sufficient resources to meet these scarcity challenges is the principle of re-use, in that certain water streams within the home are re-used or re-purposed for a secondary use, sometimes characterized as "greywater." Conventional approaches to such re-use focus on a "whole home" approach, and require significant initial costs (e.g., installation of hardware and infrastructure, reconfiguration of supply lines and drains, etc.) and maintenance costs (e.g., treatment, cleaning, especially around water waste classified as "sewage").

(3) The resulting system may treat and divert multiple residential streams of water back to a single stream potable, or non-potable quality form for secondary re-use application (e.g., substantially all water used in the home is diverted to a single reservoir which feeds all future use). However, this potable or non-potable form is not optimized for any particular use and does not take into account the specific needs of the secondary purpose, and so in some cases the treatment of input water may be inefficient, unnecessary, or unsuitable based on the water's previous use and actual characteristics. Due to the high cost of implementation and maintenance, as well as the static, rather than dynamic or reactive, treatment of water, the scale of the savings realized by residential homes using conventional graywater systems is limited, and so they are not considered to be a feasible or realistic option for the majority of domestic users.

SUMMARY

(4) In one form, a residential water supplementation system comprises a case configured to be positioned at a point of use within a residence. The system further comprises a water channel configured to receive a volume of water from a water source that is coupled to a water input of the water channel and provide the volume of water to a water output. The system further comprises one or more cartridge receivers. The system further comprises one or more injection nozzles in fluid communication with the water channel. The system further comprises one or more pumps, wherein each pump is coupled to at least one of the one or more cartridge receivers, is coupled to an injection nozzle of the one or more injection nozzles, and is operable to extract a volume of chemistry from a cartridge that is coupled to the at least one cartridge receiver and inject the volume of chemistry into the volume of water via the injection nozzle. The system further comprises a processor configured to cause the one or more pumps to modify the volume of water within the water channel based on a selected treatment.

(5) In another form, a residential point of use reservoir device comprises a water capture device in fluid communication with a precedent use water, wherein the water capture device includes a sensor configured to provide a signal that indicates the presence of the precedent use water. The device further comprises a storage reservoir configured to hold a volume of water, and a first channel that provides a fluid connection between the water capture device and the storage reservoir. The device further comprises one or more cartridge receivers and one or more injection nozzles in fluid communication with the storage reservoir. The system further comprises one or more pumps, wherein each pump is coupled to at least one of the one or more cartridge receivers, is coupled to an injection nozzle of the one or more injection nozzles, and is operable to extract a volume of chemistry from a cartridge that is coupled to the at least one cartridge receiver and inject the volume of chemistry into the volume of water via the injection nozzle. The device further comprises a second channel that provides a fluid connection between the storage reservoir and a subsequent point of use, and one or more transport pumps configured to transport the precedent use water to the storage reservoir based on the signal from the sensor, and transport water from the storage reservoir to the subsequent point of use.

(6) In another form, a method comprises providing a water supplementation unit configured to receive a volume of water from a water source and provide the volume of water to a water output. The method further comprises, by a processor, receiving a user input via a user interface of the

water supplementation unit. The method further comprises, by the processor, determining a water modification associated with the user input. The method further comprises, by the processor and based on the water modification, causing a pump of the water supplementation unit to extract a volume of chemistry from a cartridge that is coupled to the water supplementation unit and inject the volume of chemistry into the volume of water.

Description

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

(1) The above-mentioned and other features and advantages of the present disclosure, and the manner of attaining them, will become more apparent and the disclosure itself will be better understood by reference to the following description of non-limiting embodiments of the disclosure taken in conjunction with the accompanying drawings, wherein:

(2) FIG. 1 is a schematic diagram illustrating exemplary water uses.

(3) FIG. 2 is a schematic diagram illustrating an exemplary system for managing water use.

(4) FIG. 3 is schematic diagram of an exemplary point of use water conditioner.

(5) FIG. 4 is a front elevation view of an exemplary point of use water conditioner.

(6) FIG. 5 is a front perspective view of the point of use water conditioner of FIG. 4.

(7) FIG. 6 is a schematic diagram of an exemplary interior configuration of a point of use water conditioner.

(8) FIG. 7A is a schematic diagram of another exemplary interior configuration of a point of use water conditioner.

(9) FIG. 7B is a front elevation view of exemplary internal components of the point of use water conditioner of FIG. 7A.

(10) FIG. 7C is a front perspective view of the internal components of FIG. 7B.

(11) FIG. 8 is a schematic diagram of an exemplary cartridge receiver.

(12) FIG. 9A is a front perspective view of an exemplary cartridge usable with a point of use water conditioner.

(13) FIG. 9B is a cross sectional view of the cartridge of FIG. 9A.

(14) FIG. 10 is a schematic diagram illustrating an exemplary pre-treatment module usable with a point of user water conditioner.

(15) FIG. 11A is a front perspective view of an exemplary pump usable with a point of use water conditioner.

(16) FIG. 11B is a front perspective view of the pump of FIG. 11A with a housing removed to show internal components.

(17) FIG. 11C is an exploded view of the pump of FIG. 11A.

(18) FIG. 11D is a rear perspective view of an exemplary cylinder plate of the pump of FIG. 11A.

(19) FIG. 11E is a front elevation view of an exemplary manifold plate of the pump of FIG. 11A, with dashed lines illustrating the position of an interior channel.

(20) FIG. 12 is a schematic diagram illustrating another exemplary pump.

(21) FIG. 13 is a flowchart of an exemplary set of high level steps that may be performed to operate a point of use water conditioner.

(22) FIG. 14 is a flowchart of an exemplary set of steps that may be performed to enable use of a cartridge with a point of use water conditioner.

(23) FIG. 15 is a flowchart of an exemplary set of steps that may be performed to manage reuse of cartridges.

(24) FIG. 16 is a flowchart of an exemplary set of steps that may be performed to provide point of use water treatment.

(25) FIG. 17 is a flowchart of another exemplary set of steps that may be performed to provide

point of use water treatment.

(26) FIG. 18A is a schematic diagram of an exemplary water capture ring.

(27) FIG. 18B is a front perspective view of the water capture ring of FIG. 18A.

(28) FIG. 18C is another schematic diagram of the water capture ring of FIG. 18A.

(29) FIG. 19A a front perspective view of an alternate exemplary point of use water conditioner.

(30) FIG. 19B a front perspective view of another alternate exemplary point of use water conditioner.

(31) FIG. 19C a front perspective view of yet another alternate exemplary point of use water conditioner.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION

(32) The present disclosure relates to systems and methods for managing the storage, treatment, and use of water in domestic environments. Various nonlimiting embodiments of the present disclosure will now be described to provide an overall understanding of the principles of the function, design, and operation of the systems and methods. One or more examples of these nonlimiting embodiments are illustrated in the accompanying drawings. Those of ordinary skill in the art will understand that the systems and methods described herein and illustrated in the accompanying drawings are nonlimiting example embodiments and that the scope of the various nonlimiting embodiments of the present disclosure are defined solely by the claims. The features illustrated or described in connection with one nonlimiting embodiment may be combined with the features of other nonlimiting embodiments. Such modifications and variations are intended to be included within the scope of the present disclosure.

(33) One of the increasing concerns of consumers in a water scare world is the issue of water quality. Many consumers prefer bottled water to tap water due to perceived contaminant and health benefits. In a beauty context, many consumers are searching for different experiences and hair and skin benefits by the use of differing types and qualities of water. As an example, mineral water, rainwater, sparkling water, vinegar, and even champagne are touted as preferential cleaning and rinsing solvents as opposed to tap water. This 'alternative water trend' or 'premium water trend' is becoming more mainstream. In reality, there are genuine scientific reasons why some water types can have the ability to improve beauty outcomes, such as pH, where the natural pH of skin or hair is slightly acidic as compared to tap water. As a result, this may cause swelling of the skin or hair, which may affect their natural barrier functions.

(34) Another example is hardness, where Ca/Mg and carbonates can also have some detrimental effects on the deposition of salts on skin or hair, and may form crystalline structures that disrupt surface quality, feeling, and appearance. An elevated acidity in water can prevent or remove crystalline deposits, leaving a smoother surface, which may be related to trends in using vinegar as a rinsing agent. As yet another example, transition metals can prove very aggressive to hair or skin due to the catalytic propagation of peroxidation reactions involving the body's natural oils and fats.

(35) Some trends may be primarily due to perceived experiences rather than improved skin, hair, or other health benefits. For example, carbonated water has been used for bathing, and has been described as improving the 'experience' of rinsing, giving the consumer a pleasurable experience due to the nucleation of bubbles on the skins surface.

(36) While some systems exist for water treatment, from softening systems to Ion exchange apparatus and nano filtration systems, these systems are conventionally focused on whole home treatment to convert grey water into potable water, rather than providing use-specific health or experience benefits. As a result, such systems are a major undertaking to install and maintain, and do not provide for use-specific flexibility or variability in type of treatment.

(37) As disclosed herein, it may be advantageous to selectively treat only certain water streams, or certain water 'moments' that are provided at points of use such as a shower, sink, toilet, or other point of use. Such selective treatment allows for modular and focused treatment of waters at specific points of use, to provide specific benefits, rather than treating the whole water supply that

is supplied to or used by a home. This allows for systems and devices of modest cost and complexity that treat only a portion of the water dispensed in a household, at the location, time, or both of the specific need or use (e.g., a duration of a shower, or certain portions of a shower such the rinse stage of a hair wash, or when body rinsing post cleansing). Implementations of these point of use devices may be inserted within, or exist in parallel with, existing water infrastructure (e.g., water supply lines, water drainage lines) without permanently modifying the existing infrastructure. In some implementations, point of use water treatment devices may be combined with systems that provide broader water use, capture, treatment, and re-use capabilities, such as the systems disclosed in U.S. Provisional Patent Application No. 63/118,176, filed on Nov. 25, 2020, the entire disclosure of which is incorporated by reference herein.

(38) These point of use water treatment devices may be implemented with a small size, and may also use consumable and swappable cartridges that allow the water quality to be modified at the request of the user or via a programmed sequence. Such cartridges may contain chemical treatments to provide health benefits, experience benefits, or other changes, and may include cartridges configured to modify pH, provide carbonation, mineralization, or dispense specific liquids to improve beauty outcomes and experiences. These point of use devices may also incorporate water treatment modules (e.g., passive or active filtration systems) for the removal of specific metal ion species, such a transition metals.

(39) Turning now to the figures, FIG. 1 shows a schematic diagram illustrating exemplary water uses within a domestic setting **10**, such as a household. Primary infrastructure **11** related to water use (e.g., copper or plastic pipes providing fresh water, plastic drain pipes that divert used water to a sewage system) is illustrated as solid lines, while modular infrastructure **13**, which may include point of use water treatment devices as described herein, are illustrated as dashed lines. Fresh water enters the domestic setting **10** via the primary infrastructure **11** from a fresh water input **12**, which may be, for example, a water treatment plant or other public utility, a public water storage reservoir, a fresh water well, or another water table access point. Water provided by the fresh water input **12** is used in a variety of ways within the domestic setting, such as kitchen uses **14** (e.g., sink, dishwasher), bathing uses **18** (e.g., shower, sink), laundry uses **20** (e.g., washing machine), and toilet uses **22**. In addition to providing water for various uses, the primary infrastructure **11** also provides drainage from those uses to a water waste output **16**, such as a public sewage system, cesspool, or septic system.

(40) As can be seen, the modular infrastructure **13** is more limited in the scope than the primary infrastructure **11**. The modular infrastructure **13** may be encased within the structure of the domestic setting **10** (e.g., encased within walls, floors, or ceilings), or may be installed externally to such structures. The modular infrastructure **13** may include some aspects of the primary infrastructure **11**, such as copper or plastic piping encased within structures, but may also include flexible tubing, flat tubing, temporary tubing with quick attach and release features, and other materials to aid in transport of water across relatively short distances and/or within a single room or adjacent rooms. In some implementations, the modular infrastructure **13** may also include transportable mobile elements, such as canisters, cartridges, or tanks that may be carried or otherwise conveyed (e.g., such as by rolling on a set of wheels) from location to location. In some implementations, the modular infrastructure **13** may include point of use water treatment devices that may receive fresh water, or treated water, and perform treatments on demand at a point of use, as will be described in more detail below.

(41) While the particular layout and design of the modular infrastructure **13** will depend upon particular households and varying implementations, and may also change from time to time as modular connections are added or removed, FIG. 1 shows several exemplary connections that are generally effective. For example, water that is used for bathing uses **18**, generally in a bathroom, may be captured by the modular infrastructure **13**, treated and stored, as will be described in more detail below, and then redirected for toilet uses **22** rather than flowing to the water waste output **16**.

Similarly, water that is used for laundry uses **20** may be captured by the modular infrastructure **13** and then re-used one or more times for laundry uses **20**, after treatment and storage, and then redirected for toilet uses **22**. Water used for toilet uses **22** is generally too difficult to treat in a manner that is both efficient and acceptable for wide use, and so may be diverted directly to water waste output **16**. In other implementations, the modular infrastructure **13** may provide captured water for other subsequent uses, such as for watering plants or lawns, and may capture water from additional sources, such as dishwashers, kitchen sinks, or rain water from a roof or gutters. A significant advantage of the modular infrastructure **13** is its minimal footprint and application, as compared to conventional whole home water re-use systems. Significant gains in efficiency, ease of use, and cost of maintenance are possible by implementing the modular infrastructure **13** in a limited way, and utilizing it based upon various dynamic factors such as sensor data, usage history, user requests, and other inputs as will be described in more detail below.

(42) FIG. 2 is a schematic diagram illustrating an exemplary system **100** for managing water use. The system **100** may be implemented to enable some or all of the aspects of FIG. 1, such as using the modular infrastructure **13** to allow water management outside of the primary infrastructure **11**. Points of use **101** illustrated in FIG. 2 include a sink **110** (e.g., within a bathroom, and intended primarily for handwashing and dental hygiene), a shower **112**, and a toilet **118**, which are typically grouped into the same room or at least proximately located to each other within the setting, as well as a washing machine **114**, and an outdoor faucet **116**, typically located in other rooms and at varying distances from each other and from other points of use. One or more point of use devices **104** may be installed and configured for one or more of the points of use **101** to enable such features as water modification at the point of use, real time or on demand water modification, water capture, treatment and re-use, and other beneficial features.

(43) While not required in all implementations, the exemplary system **100** depicted in FIG. 2 also includes a water use hub **102**, which is in communication with one or more devices such as point of use devices **104**, and which itself is in communication with one or more remote servers **106** and one or more user devices **108**. The water use hub **102** may communicate with point of use devices **104** and enable communication between those devices and a user device **108**, remote server **106**, or other point of use devices **108**. As an example, this may allow a user with a smartphone **108** to remotely configure and interact with point of use device **104**. The water use hub **102** may be a computer, a router, hub, switch, or other network device, or a proprietary device having adequate processing, storage, and communication capabilities to allow wired and/or wireless transmission and receipt of data, as well as processing, storage, and analysis of data. In some implementations, the water use hub **102** may be a smartphone or other personal computing device in the possession of a person within the setting, and so may also be a user device **108**. Wired data connections may be by USB, Ethernet, broadband over power lines, or other wired connections. Wireless data connections may be Wi-Fi, Bluetooth, IR, NFC, or other short, medium, or long range wireless transmission. The remote server **106** may be one or more physical, virtual, cloud, or other server environments configured to transmit and receive data over a wide area network (e.g., the internet), and to store, modify, and analyze data. The user devices **108** may include one or more smartphones, tablets, computers, laptops, wearable devices, gaming device, proprietary devices, or other personal computing devices such as might be in the possession of a person inhabiting or visiting the location at which the system **100** is implemented.

(44) Referring to FIGS. 1-2, data exchanged between the water use hub **102** point of use devices **104** may include, for example, usage data indicating volumes and occurrences of water entering and exiting the network, water entering the system from the fresh water input **12**, water exiting the system via the water waste output **16**, the status of point of used devices **104**, which may include battery charge level, filter status, cartridge status and fill level, and other information. As an example, the point of use devices **104** may from time to time communicate via a wireless LAN and report general status information to the water use hub (e.g., currently in use, volume of water

dispensed over period of time, battery level, cartridge fill level, cartridge contents, or other information, water temperature) as well as targeted notifications (e.g., change battery warning, change or replace cartridge warning, detection of leaky faucet, dangerous water temperature warning, or other warnings).

(45) Data available to the water use hub **102** might also include sensor data describing characteristics of water used at points of use **101**. This may include data from sensors capable of determining various characteristics of volumes of water. Such information might be used by point of use devices **104** or other devices to evaluate and prepare captured water for subsequent uses, and may be reported to the water use hub **102** so that it may be used for other purposes such as identifying ways to improve the overall quality of water in a household, to detect the presence of contaminants, or to suggest different products (e.g., chemical treatment cartridges, filtration modules) that may improve or reduce the level of chemical contaminants present in water at the point of use **101**.

(46) Data gathered by the water use hub **102** may be provided to a remote server **106** and used as part of aggregate information on water use across a group of users or a geographical area from which it originated, for example, and may be used to produce and refine configurations of the a plurality of systems **100** across many users. For example, data reported from a plurality of users within a single city may indicate that most or all residents of the city receive water with an undesirably high mineral content from the fresh water input **12**. Such information may be used to remotely configure many point of use devices **104** within that city, to account for and treat the known high mineral content. The water use hub **102** and/or server **106** may also use gathered data to communicate with the user device **108** and provide information, recommendations, and other data to users via a one or more graphical user interfaces. For example, the user device **108** may receive a notification indicating high mineral content in the fresh water input **12**, and recommending a whole-home water softener or other solution. As another example, the user device **108** may receive a notification indicating that, based on their historic and/or configured usage patterns, if they can wash a load of laundry at 9 p.m. instead of at 7 p.m., the entire water usage for that wash will come from re-used water that will be available at that time, instead of from the fresh water input **12**. As another example, the user device **108** may receive a notification indicating that a chemical cartridge fill level for a point of use device **104** is low and should be replaced.

(47) As further example of a point of use device **104**, FIG. 3 shows a schematic diagram of a point of use water conditioner **200**, which may also be referred to as a residential water supplementation unit, that is operable to modify water at a point of use such as a shower. Water modifications may include, for example, filtering, injection of chemical treatments (e.g., to modify pH), and injection of user experience treatments (e.g., to provide scented water, colored water, or carbonated water). The water conditioner **200** includes a water channel **202** that receives water as input from the fresh water input **12** or another source, and transports the water to an output at the point of use (e.g., a shower head). Filtering, treatment, and other modifications to the water may be performed on water while it is traversing the water channel **202**. In varying implementations, the water channel may include one or more inputs (e.g., one input for fresh water **12**, and one for water input from modular infrastructure **13**), and one or more outputs (e.g., one output for a point of use such as a shower head **112**, and one for a peripherally attached device such as a handheld shower).

(48) The water conditioner **200** may include one or more injection pumps **204** that are operable to introduce chemistry such as an additive to water flow in the water channel **202**. In varying implementations, injection pumps **204** may draw additives from an internal reservoir, or may draw additives from a cartridge or other external replaceable reservoir. In cartridge based implementations, the water conditioner **200** may include a cartridge receiver **210** that receives a cartridge containing chemical treatments, user experience treatments, or other additives, and provides such additives to the injection pumps **204**. Cartridge receivers **210** may include additional features, such as optical, electrical, or wireless data readers or receivers operable to receive

information from an inserted cartridge that is usable to identify the cartridge and its contents, or enable/disable other features of the water conditioner **200** based upon an inserted cartridge, as will be described in more detail below.

(49) The water conditioner **200** may include a user interface **206** that allows a user to provide inputs to the water conditioner **200**, receive information from the water conditioner **200**, or both. The user interface may include, for example, a display screen, a touch screen, a set of light indicators or other visual indicators, a set of buttons or other controls, voice activation features, or a software interface accessible wirelessly from another device (e.g., such as a smartphone connecting to the water conditioner **200** via Bluetooth or Wi-Fi). The user interface **206** may be configured to allow a user to activate certain water treatments, create and change software configurations of the water conditioner **200**, receive information relating to the function of the water conditioner **200** such as operational status, cartridge contents, cartridge levels, and receive warning messages or other notifications relating to the function of the water conditioner **200**.

(50) The water conditioner **200** may include other features and components such as power sources **208** (e.g., a rechargeable/replaceable battery, hardwired connection, power cable), communication devices **212** (e.g., Bluetooth transceivers, Wi-Fi transceivers, optical transceivers, or other devices capable of receiving and transmitting data wirelessly or via a hardwired connection), processors **218** (e.g., one or more computer processors within the water conditioner **200** or within a device in communication with the water conditioner **200**, that are configured to execute programming instructions and exchange control signals with other devices of the water conditioner **200** such as the injection pumps **204**, user interfaces **206**, and others), as well as components such as memories, storage devices, sealants against water and humidity, for example. One or more processors **218** may also include computer processors of varying types including microprocessors, and may also include control boards, programmable logic devices, field programmable gate arrays, and other devices capable of receiving an input signal, determining an output signal, and providing the output signal to one or more other devices or components.

(51) The water conditioner **200** may include a sensor module **214** that includes one or more sensor capabilities such as flow sensors, pressure sensors, contaminant sensors, water characteristic sensors (e.g., for determining pH, hardness, clarity), temperature sensors, motion sensors, proximity sensors, sound sensors, optical sensors, or other sensor devices capable of measuring physical characteristics of the proximate environment and generating datasets for use by the processor **218**. Characteristics measured by sensors may include, for example, water temperature, mineral content, acidity, chemical content, particulate content, microbial content, fungal content, viral content, and biochemical oxygen demand.

(52) The water conditioner **200** may also include a filtration module **216**, which may include one or more filtration membranes, chambers, or substances, and may be positioned inline along the water channel **202**, prior to the water channel **202** and external to the water conditioner **200** itself (e.g., inline along a hose or other channel that provides fresh water **12** to the water conditioner **200**), or after the water channel **202** and external to the water conditioner **200** (e.g., inline along a hose or other channel that provides post-modification water to a point of use such as a shower **112**).

(53) In some implementations, the water channel **202** may have two or more outputs, with one output providing post-modification water to a point of use such as the shower **112**, and a second output terminating at a secondary device connector **220**. The secondary device connector **220** may be configured to couple with any of a variety of secondary devices to allow for post-modification water to be provided selectively to the shower **112**, a connected secondary device, or both simultaneously. Examples of a secondary device include a handheld shower head separate from the primary shower head, a water dispensing toothbrush, a water dispensing hairbrush, a water dispensing body scrub brush, and a water dispensing razor, for example. Secondary devices may receive a steady stream of water from the water conditioner **200** based upon the operation of a passive or active valve system within the water channel **202** and/or secondary device connector

220, or may include their own supply valve that controls the flow of water by pressing a button or adjusting another control, or both.

(54) In some implementations, the water conditioner **200** may additionally be configured for point of use water capture and re-use via modular infrastructure. Such implementations may additionally include one or more storage reservoirs **222**. The storage reservoir **222** may be inline with, or otherwise in fluid communication with the water channel **202**, such that water received via some or all of the water inputs passes into the storage reservoir **222**, and water from the storage reservoir **222** may flow out of the water conditioner **200** via one or more water outputs. Water provided by the water conditioner **200** may be from the fresh water input **12** that bypasses the storage reservoir **222** completely, may flow from the storage reservoir **222**, or may be a mix.

(55) Water that is provided to the storage reservoir **222** may be stored and initially treated, or treated over time, while water bypassing the storage reservoir **222** may be treated and provided in real-time. Water provided to the storage reservoir **222** may be from the fresh water input **12**, or may be water captured from a point of use via modular infrastructure **13**. Water captured for treatment in the storage reservoir **222** during a precedent use may be treated, and then provided from the storage reservoir **222** for a subsequent use, and is typically captured prior to entering the primary infrastructure **11** (e.g., captured prior to entering a drain). Components of the water conditioner **200** related to water modification (e.g., the injection pump **204**, the cartridge receiver **210**, and the filtration module **216**) may operate to treat water that bypasses the storage reservoir **222**, water stored within the storage reservoir **222**, or both. For example, where a water conditioner **200** may receive four cartridges including water modification chemistry, additive from each cartridge may be used to treat water in real-time or in the storage reservoir **222**, or cartridges may be dedicated to particular uses (e.g., two cartridges may be used to treat water bypassing the storage reservoir **222**, while two cartridges may be used to treat water within the storage reservoir **222**).

(56) Implementations of the water conditioner **200** having a storage reservoir **222** may also include a water transport device **224**, which may be, for example, a pump that is operable to create pressure and/or vacuum in order to transport water within a closed system. The water transport device **224** may be operable to capture water from a point of use and transport it to the storage reservoir, and may be used to transport water from the storage reservoir into the water channel **202** for a subsequent use.

(57) FIG. 4 is a front elevation view of a point of use water conditioner **300**. The water conditioner **300** has a shape, size, and other physical characteristics that would make it suitable for placement near a shower **112**, though it should be understood that any of the concepts, features, or methods described herein may also be applied to other points of use, such as a sink **110**, washing machine **114**, or toilet **118**. Accordingly, to the extent that the disclosure describes such concepts, features, and methods in relation to a shower **112**, such description is merely for the sake of illustration and clarity, and should not be interpreted as a limitation on that disclosure to application in a shower **112**. The water conditioner **300** includes a case **302**, a water input **304** extending from the case, and a water output **306** extending from the case. While the water input **304** and water output **306** are shown on the top and bottom sides of the case **302** respectively, it should be understood that they may be positioned elsewhere, and so for example each may be positioned on a top of the case **302**, on the bottom of the **302**, or on opposite sides of the case **302**, for example. The water conditioner **300** includes four cartridge receivers **308**, with two positioned on each side of the case (e.g., a cartridge receiver **308** is also shown in FIG. 5), which define a recess extending into the case **302**, and that are shaped to receive a cartridge **310**. The cartridge receiver **308** may also include one or more protrusions onto which a cartridge **310** is received. Cartridges **310** removably attached to a cartridge receiver **308** may include chemical treatments, experience treatments, or other additives that may be injected into the water by a device such as the injection pump **204**, and may also contain aspect of the filtration module **216**, such as filtration membranes or chambers that may be easily replaced by swapping the exhausted filter cartridge for a replacement cartridge.

(58) A front of the case **302** includes a set of buttons **312** and a set of status indicators **314** which may correspond to one or more buttons. Buttons **312** may each correspond to a single cartridge, such that actuating a button causes an additive from the corresponding cartridge **310** to be injected into the water stream. Operation of the buttons **312** may vary by implementation. As an example, in some implementations pressing a button **312** may supply a static amount of additive each time over several injections, while in other implementations pressing a button **312** several times within a short period of time may cause an increasing amount of additive to be subsequently supplied in a single injection. The status indicators **314** may be, for example, light indicators operable to emit varying colors of light at varying magnitudes. The status indicators **314** may be operated to provide information on the operation of the water conditioner **300**, with lighted indicators indicating an in-process or upcoming water modification (e.g., three lights may be illuminated in response to three presses of a corresponding button), or indicating a status of a corresponding cartridge **310** (e.g., 3 lights for a near full cartridge, 1 light for a near empty cartridge), or both in varying operation modes. The status indicators **314** may also operate in other modes, such as to provide errors, warnings, notifications, or other information.

(59) FIG. 5 is a front perspective view of the point of use water conditioner **300**, shown with a cartridge **310** removed from the cartridge receiver **308**, and three other cartridges still coupled to their respective cartridge receivers. While the cartridges **310** are illustrated as cylinders, it should also be understood that they may be implemented in varying shapes, sizes, or with other varying physical characteristics. Additionally, it should be understood that while the cartridge receivers are shown on opposite sides of the case **302**, in some implementations they may instead be distributed about a top, bottom, or on the front of the case **302**.

(60) FIG. 6 is a schematic diagram of an exemplary interior configuration of a point of use water conditioner **400**. A water input **404** at a top of a case **402** leads to an internal water channel **418** which runs from the water input **404** to a water output **406** at a bottom of the case. The water input **404** and water output **405** may have varying types of connectors, such as threaded connectors or push connectors, and may incorporate additional mechanisms for locking, sealing, or otherwise fastening the connection to prevent leaks.

(61) Four cartridge receivers **408** are illustrated in positions generally matching those of the water conditioner **300** (e.g., two on each side of the case **402**), and the position of a cartridge **410** within the upper left cartridge receiver **308** is illustrated by dashed lines. An injection pump **416** is shown connected to each cartridge receiver **408** by a supply line **414**. The injection pump **416** is coupled to the main water channel **418** such that water passing through the water conditioner **400** passes through, or in fluid contact with, one or more injector nozzles or other outputs of the injection pump **416**. The injection pump **416** may include a single pump mechanism and a set of electronically actuated valves that may be reconfigured by operation of buttons or user controls, or based upon control signals (e.g., from the processor **218** or another source). Once the valves are selectively configured, operation of the pump mechanism will cause additive from any cartridge corresponding to an open valve to be introduced into the water stream within the water channel **418**. The water conditioner **400** also includes a pre-treatment module **412**, which may include one or more filters of the filtration module **216**. In some implementations, the pre-treatment module **412** may also include a turbine positioned along the main water channel **418** that operates by the flow of water through the main water channel **418**, and that generates an electrical charge to power components of the water conditioner **400** or provide charge to the power source **208**.

(62) FIG. 7A is a schematic diagram of another interior configuration of a point of use water conditioner **500**. The water conditioner **500** includes a case **502**, water input **504**, water output **506**, cartridge receivers **508**, pre-treatment module **512**, and main water channel **518** having features and functions similar to those described above in the context of FIG. 6. The water conditioner **500** includes a set of four injection pumps **520**, with each injection pump corresponding to a single cartridge receiver **508**. The injections pumps **520** may be selectively operated (e.g., by the press of

a corresponding button, or based upon control signals from the processor **218** or another device) to inject an additive into the main water channel **518** via an injection nozzle or other output that is in fluid contact with the main water channel **518**.

(63) FIG. 7B is a front elevation view of a set of internal components such as may be used in the water conditioner **500**. A water input **504** provides a flow of water to a main water channel **518** which terminates at a water output **506**. A set of four injection pumps **520** are shown as a rack and pinion style pump mechanism that pulls an additive from a cartridge **522** on an input side, and then pushes the additive into the main water channel **518** through an output side, via a supply line **531** that is coupled to an injection nozzle **530**, which itself is shown with more clarity in FIG. 7C.

While the structural portions of the cartridge receivers are not shown in FIG. 7C, the functional portion of each cartridge receiver is shown as a cartridge coupling **524** that is positioned to engage with a nozzle or valve of the cartridge **522** when it is inserted into a cartridge receiver.

(64) A secondary water channel **526** is also shown, branching from the main water channel **518**. The secondary water channel **526** terminates within the case **502** of the water conditioner **500**, and may be accessible via a removable back-plate or side plate of the case **502**. The secondary water channel **518** may be used in place of the water input **504**, which itself may be plugged or otherwise closed. This may be useful where the water conditioner **500** is positioned over top of the water input, as it minimizes the amount of externally visible piping or tubing to that which is coupled to the water output **506**. Alternatively, the secondary water channel **526** may be coupled to a secondary device, such as discussed in the context of FIG. 3, in order to provide selective water output from the secondary water channel **526**, the water output **506**, or both simultaneously, as has been described.

(65) FIG. 7C is a front perspective view of the internal components shown in FIG. 7B. The cartridge couplings **524** are shown in more detail, and may include features to create an impermeable seal between the cartridge coupling **524** and the cartridge **522**, as well as features to “activate” the cartridge upon coupling (e.g., a push tab or other structure that engages with and depresses a locking mechanism of the cartridge **522** as it is inserted). An injection nozzle **530** is also visible, extended from the main water channel **518**, and coupled to the injection pump **520** via a supply line on the output side of the injection pump **520**.

(66) FIG. 8 is a schematic diagram of a cartridge receiver such as may be included in a cartridge based water conditioner. The position of a body of a cartridge **700** within the cartridge receiver **701** is illustrated in dashed lines. As has been described, a cartridge **700** may be inserted into the cartridge receiver **701**, and may be guided into fluid communication with an injection pump via a cartridge coupling. In some implementations, the cartridge receiver **700** may include a cartridge reader **703** that is positioned on or near the cartridge coupling, near the terminal point of the cartridge receiver **700** for example, such that it comes into physical contact with, or is otherwise positioned proximal to, a portion of the cartridge **700**. For example, the cartridge **700** may include an identifier **705** that includes stored or encoded data describing characteristics of the cartridge. The identifier **705** may be, for example, a barcode, QR code, or other visually encoded data, an RFID chip or wireless memory, or a solid state memory chip. Data stored or encoded by the identifier **705** may include, for example, a unique identifier associated with each cartridge **700** (e.g., a record stored in a database may uniquely identify the cartridge **700** with this number as a primary key), a cartridge type or model, the contents or additive within the cartridge, or other information (e.g., such information may be actually stored or encoded in the identifier **705**, or may be resolved by a database query using the unique identifier of the cartridge).

(67) When inserted, the identifier **705** may be automatically read by the cartridge reader **703**, with the received information being provided to the processor **218** (or another device or processor) for use by the water conditioner. Such use may include, for example, verifying compatibility of the cartridge, verifying usability of the cartridge, verifying the contents or additive within a cartridge, verifying that the cartridge has not expired or exceeded its usable life, or other uses. Such uses may

be performed entirely locally to the water conditioner (e.g., based upon locally available and stored data), or may be performed over a network, such as by receiving information from, or providing information to, one or more remote servers that store data related to verifying the cartridge.

(68) As one example, in some implementations each cartridge **700** may be associated with a unique identifier stored on its identifier **705**, and a remote server **106** may store records relating to each unique identifier. When the cartridge **700** is first coupled to the water conditioner, the unique identifier is read from the identifier **705** and provided to the remote server **106** (e.g., via a device such as the water use hub **102**, or a user device **108** such as a smartphone, which may be in communication with the water conditioner). The remote server **106** may confirm that the unique identifier is associated with a previously manufactured cartridge, and may check for recalls or safety notices relating to the cartridge, and where no issue exists may provide information back to the water conditioner indicating that the cartridge is usable. Upon receiving this information, the water conditioner may allow the cartridge to be used for water modification, as has been described. When the same cartridge is exhausted and removed from the water conditioner, a similar process may result in additional data being provided to the remote server **106** indicating that the cartridge is exhausted. If the same cartridge were re-inserted to the water conditioner, the remote server **106** may detect that the cartridge is exhausted and unusable, and may provide response data that causes the water conditioner to signal an error message and/or prevent the cartridge from being further extracted from for additives. The example above may be combined with additional systems and methods to allow for recertification, recycling, refilling, or other reuse of the cartridge, while ensuring that cartridges are not refilled with dangerous additives or chemistry, or refilled in a way that might damage the cartridge, the water conditioner, or both during subsequent use.

(69) FIG. **9A** is a front perspective view of a cartridge **700** that may be coupled with a water conditioner via a cartridge receiver to provide swappable and replaceable supplies of additives for water modification. The cartridge **700** includes a cartridge case **702** that may be shaped to fit the cartridge receiver, and a rim **704** that engages with a cartridge coupling (e.g., the cartridge coupling **524**, as shown in FIG. **7C**).

(70) FIG. **9B** is a cross sectional view of the cartridge **700**. A reservoir **706** is visible as a cavity within the cartridge case **702**. A baseplate **708** that fits the diameter of the reservoir **706**, sealing against the interior sidewalls, is positioned at the bottom of the reservoir **706** when the reservoir is filled with an additive substance. A sealed area **710** beneath the baseplate **708** may be filled with a pressurized gas or may include a spring or other biasing mechanism that provides a passive force against the baseplate **708**, biasing the additive substance towards dispensing from the reservoir **706**. A cap **714** seals an open end of the cartridge case **702**, and the rim **704** is positioned within the interior of the cap. The cap **714** includes an output valve **718** that may be, for example, a membrane made of semi rigid rubber or another material that prevents the contents of the reservoir **706** from exiting in its default state, but that allows a supply shaft (e.g., a supply shaft **816** shown in FIG. **11B** as part of an injection pump **800**) to pass through and into the reservoir **706** when the cartridge **700** is coupled to the water conditioner. The cap **714** also includes a plug **716** that may be removed during filling or emptying of the cartridge **700**. The identifier **705**, discussed in FIG. **8**, may be embedded within the cap **714**, printed on an internal sidewall of the rim **704**, or otherwise positioned within the proximal portion of the cartridge **700** depending upon the type of identifier.

(71) FIG. **10** is a schematic diagram of a pre-treatment module **412** usable with a point of user water conditioner. The pre-treatment module includes a charging turbine **424**, sensor module **426**, and filtration module **428**. The charging turbine **424** may be configured to produce an electrical charge to charge a connected battery **422** that powers the water conditioner, or may power the water conditioner directly. The sensor module **426** may include one or more sensors (e.g., flow sensor, pressure sensor, temperature sensor, etc.) in fluid contact with water traveling through the main water channel **418**, and may be configured to provide measurement data to the processor **218**. As an example, the sensor module **426** may include a flow sensor that determines whether or not

water is flowing through the main water input, and provides such information to the processor **218** so that operation of the injections pumps and other devices may be disabled when no water flow is detected, and enabled when water flow is detected. The filtration module **428** may include one or more porous filters, filter membranes, filter substances, or other filtering components.

(72) FIG. **11A** is a front perspective view of an injection pump **800** that may be used with a point of use water conditioner (e.g., such as the injection pumps **520** of FIGS. **7B** and **7C**). The injection pump **800** includes an electric motor **802**, seated within a housing **811**, that is operable to extract an additive from a coupled cartridge, and inject that additive into a water flow in the main water channel of a water conditioner (e.g., the water conditioner **500**). Pumping force is provided by the displacement of a volume within a cylinder plate **810** to which the housing **811** is coupled. During operation, an additive may be extracted from a cartridge that is coupled to the injection pump **800** by a supply shaft **816** that is inserted through a valve or opening of the cartridge.

(73) With reference to FIGS. **11D** and **11E**, the extracted additive is pulled into a cylinder **822** of the cylinder plate **810** via a manifold plate **812**, and then pushed from the cylinder **822**, through another channel of the manifold plate **812**, to an output **818** of a cover plate **814**. Each of the cylinder plate **810**, manifold plate **812**, and cover plate **814** are shown in the exploded view of FIG. **11C**. In particular, an output **817** of the cylinder plate **810** can be seen in that figure, which aligns with an input **828** of the manifold plate **812** when assembled, which can be seen in FIG. **11E**. FIG. **11E** shows two channels of the manifold plate **812**. An input channel includes an input **828** on the rear of the manifold plate **812**, which aligns with the output **817** of the cylinder plate **810**, an embedded channel **826** that is within the manifold plate **812** and fluidly connects the input **828** to a cylinder opening **824**, and the cylinder opening **824** which fluidly connects to the cylinder **822** of the cylinder plate **810**. An output channel of the manifold plate **812** includes a cylinder opening **830** which fluidly connects to the cylinder **822**, a surface channel **832** which is visible on the surface of the manifold plate and fluidly connects the cylinder opening **830** to an output **834** that aligns with the output **818** of the cover plate **814**. While the surface channel **832** is visible on the surface of the manifold plate **812**, it is sealed by the cover plate **814** when the injection pump **800** is fully assembled.

(74) Turning now to the source of displacement for the injection pump **800**, FIG. **11B** shows a front perspective view of the injection pump **800** with the housing **811** removed. The electric motor **802** can be seen coupled to a pinion **804**, which itself is in rotational communication with a rack **806**, which is slidably positioned within the housing **811** when assembled. Operation of the electric motor **802** in a first rotational direction causes the rack **806** to move in a first direction (e.g., along the x-axis), while operation of the electric motor **802** in a second rotational direction causes the rack **806** to move in a second direction opposite the first direction. With reference to FIG. **11C**, the rack **806** can be seen as part of a single piece that also includes a piston **820**, which collectively may be referred to as a piston shaft. The piston **820** is sized and shaped to occupy the cylinder **822**, shown in FIG. **11D**, such that as the piston **820** extends into the cylinder **822**, or retracts from the cylinder **822**, the volume of the cylinder **822** is displaced resulting in a positive or negative pressure (e.g., when extending into the cylinder **822** the contents of the cylinder will be pushed out, and when retracting from within the cylinder **822** a vacuum will be created within the cylinder **822**). In this manner, operation of the electric motor **802** provides for a two stage operation of the injection pump **800**, a first stage where the rack **806** withdraws the piston **820** from the cylinder **822**, and a second stage where the rack **806** extends the piston **820** into the cylinder **820**.

Considered in light of the input channel and output channel defined by the manifold plate **812**, it can be seen that the first stage causes an additive to be pulled from the cartridge into the cylinder via the input channel, while a second stage causes the additive within the cylinder to be displaced through the output channel and out of the cover plate **814**.

(75) FIG. **12** further illustrates the operation of the injection pump **800** in schematic diagram form. An injection pump **840** includes an electric motor **842** coupled to a pinion **844**, which itself is in

rotatable communication with a rack **846** that includes a piston **860**. The piston occupies the diameter of a cylinder **862**, such that movement of the piston **844** along the x-axis may displace the volume of the cylinder **862**, or create a vacuum within the cylinder **862**. An input channel **852** and output channel **854** are illustrated in a similar configuration to that of the injection pump **800**. Each channel **852**, **854** also includes a unidirectional valve that allows for flow in a different direction, which determines the direction of flow during operation of the injection pump **840**. For example, an input valve **856** allows for unidirectional flow into the cylinder **862**, while an output valve **858** allows for unidirectional flow out of the cylinder **862**. The valves **856**, **858** may be flexibly biased (e.g., by a spring or other tension member) towards a closed position, such that they are closed in an equal pressure state. Any positive pressure in their allowed direction will exceed the strength of the biasing member and cause the valve to open, while pressure in the disallowed direction will instead pull the valve **856**, **858** against the structure to which it is mounted and prevent flow. The valves **856**, **858** may be implemented in other ways than that described above, such as electronically actuated valves that can open in either direction based upon a control signal, which may allow for additive present in a cylinder of the injection pump to be transported back to the cartridge, for example.

(76) One advantage of the disclosed rack and pinion injection pumps is the precise control over the volume of additive that is injected into the primary water channel, as well as the high injection pressure which can be achieved (e.g., greater than the pressure of the fresh water input **12** or, if the water conditioner includes any flow or pressure restrictors, greater than the restricted flow) in order to inject the additive into the primary water channel without any backflow of water into the injection pump. To illustrate with reference to FIG. **12**, the size of the teeth used for the rack **846** and pinion **844** may be selected to correspond to a displacement volume (e.g., 0.1 ml), and the electric motor **842** may be configured to operate in steps (e.g., full rotations, quarter rotations, etc.) that correspond to the displacement volume, such that instead of receiving a control signal that causes the electric motor **842** to be “on” or “off”, a control signal is received that causes the electric motor **842** to operate for five quarter rotations or steps (e.g., which might correspond to 0.5 ml). High pressure of the displacement, to exceed the pressure of water flow in the primary water channel, may be achieved by selecting a size of the rack **844** and pinion **846** assembly that allows for sufficient force to be created while not exceeding the capabilities of the electric motor **842** (e.g., the diameter of the pinion **844** may be increased to increase the magnitude of force applied to the pinion **846**).

(77) FIG. **13** is a flowchart of a set of high level steps that may be performed to operate a point of use water conditioner, such as may be used with the water conditioners disclosed herein. The water conditioner may be enabled for operation only when flow is detected **900**, such as by a flow sensor or other sensor in a sensor module of the water conditioner. This may prevent injection of additives into a water channel that has resting/standing water within, or that is empty. Prior to or during use, the water conditioner may identify **902** any attached cartridges and/or peripherals in order to determine what sort of water modifications or other water uses may be provided. When usable cartridges and/or peripherals are coupled to the water conditioner and flow is detected **900**, they may be enabled **904** for water modification or other use. The water conditioner may then provide **906** treatments for the water using the enabled cartridges and/or peripherals in response to user inputs, configured user preferences, or other inputs.

(78) FIG. **14** is a flowchart of a set of steps that may be performed to enable use of a cartridge with a point of use water conditioner. While the discussion of FIGS. **13-17** may describe certain steps as being performed by or with the water conditioner (e.g., using the processor **218**), it should be understood that in some implementations some or all of the steps may be performed by or with other processors, such as a processor of a user device **108**, a remote server **106**, a water use hub **102**, or other devices. The water conditioner may receive **910** an identifier or other cartridge information when a cartridge is coupled to the water conditioner, when the system detects flow

900, or both. Information may be received from the cartridge as has been described, which may include reading a unique identifier from an RFID chip located on the cartridge using a wireless RFID reader. The water conditioner may determine **912** the usability of the cartridge based upon the identifier or other information, which may be performed locally, or in conjunction with a remote server **106**. As an example, a local determination may include decoding an encoded value with a locally stored key, while a remote determination may include exchanging information with the remote server **106** to verify the authenticity and/or prior use of the cartridge to determine if it is usable.

(79) Where the cartridge is valid **916**, the water conditioner may determine one or more use limitations associated with the cartridge and update a user interface to reflect these limitations. As an example, some cartridges containing chemical treatments may only allow one use per day or other time interval, may only allow one use per shower or other usage based occurrence, or may only allow uses for certain configured users of the water conditioner (e.g., a treatment may be enabled based upon a wireless connection with a proximately located mobile device associated with a particular user, and disabled when the device is not proximately located). Other cartridges, such as user experience cartridges (e.g., color, carbonation, scent) may allow unlimited uses, or generally less restrictive uses. A user interface of the water conditioner may be updated to reflect any present limitations. This may include, for example, illuminating a light indicator associated with a button for a particular cartridge in a different color to indicate it is limited to one use per day, or to indicate that no further use is possible at that time. As another example, this may include updating a software interface on a user device **108** to describe or otherwise illustrate such limitations. Where the cartridge is invalid **916**, the water conditioner may instead provide **920** a warning indicating that the cartridge is invalid or defective, and will prevent injection of additives from that cartridge into the water stream. Providing **920** such warnings may include audible warnings, illumination of light indicators associated with the cartridge, or notification via a user device **108** indicating the error.

(80) Where a peripheral is connected to the water conditioner, a peripheral identifier may be received **914** that identifies the peripheral and its capabilities. The peripheral identifier may be received via a wireless or wired transmission of data from the peripheral upon connection, as has been described, or may be configured or provided via a user device **108**. The water conditioner may determine **912** the peripherals usability locally or in conjunction with a remote server **106**, as has been described in the context of cartridges, and where the peripheral is valid **916** the water conditioner may determine **918** any limitations on its use and update a user interface to reflect such limitations. As an example, where the attached peripheral is identified as a toothbrush that selectively provides water during use, the water conditioner may determine **918** that certain cartridges may now be injected into the water stream during use of that peripheral, such as scents, colors, or chemical treatments that would negatively impact brushing of teeth. Where the attached peripheral is invalid or unusable **916**, the water conditioner may provide a warning via a user interface indicating the error, and prevent the flow of water to the peripheral device.

(81) FIG. 15 is a flowchart of an exemplary set of steps that may be performed to manage reuse of cartridges. As has been described, a particular cartridge that is usable with a water conditioner may include unique identifying data (e.g., stored by the identifier **705**) that is usable to verify the contents, use history, compatibility, and other characteristics of the cartridge. This identifying data may also be used to aid in recycling, refilling, and reconditioning of cartridges. This may be particularly advantageous for the disclosed cartridges since they will be used during showering, handwashing, or other hygiene related tasks, and so users may show a preference for having a dedicated set of cartridges through refilling and reconditioning processes, as opposed to receiving a refilled or reconditioned cartridge of unknown history, ownership, or use. In other words, a user may wish to purchase a cartridge new, exhaust its additive during use, return the cartridge to be refilled, and then receive the very same cartridge back once refilled.

(82) This may be accomplished by associating **930** each cartridges unique identifying data with a user, with such association being stored locally (e.g., on a water conditioner, or by a user device **108**), on a remote server **106**, or both. This association may be made when a cartridge is first purchased by a user, using a software application on a user device **108**, for example. Each time a cartridge is inserted in or otherwise coupled to a water conditioner, the identifying data may be read from the identifier **705** and verified **932** to confirm that it has been previously associated with the user **930**, and may provide a warning if the cartridge has not been associated with the user, or has been associated with another user. Once the cartridge is exhausted, the user may provide the cartridge to a location that is capable of refilling or reconditioning the cartridge (e.g., by mail shipment, placing in a recycling bin or drop area, or otherwise). At that location, the cartridge identifier **705** may again be scanned **934** to verify the user and any user preferences related to the refill (e.g., a user may have particular configured preferences related to an additive's formulation or contents), or to identify a user account or payment preferences to which refill charges may be applied, or both. The cartridge identifier **705** may be scanned **936** again during shipment to identify the user's shipping information and any configured user preferences related to shipment, or to automatically print and prepare shipping labels and other packaging related to shipping, or both. Once shipped back to the user, the user will know that they have received their same cartridge when the water conditioner verifies **932** the cartridge upon insertion, or will know that they have received a different cartridge when the water conditioner reports that the cartridge is new or unfamiliar.

(83) FIG. **16** is a flowchart of a set of steps that may be performed to provide point of use water treatment. When one or more treatment functions are enabled, the water conditioner may enter **940** an operational mode, which may include waking from a lower power consumption sleep state and preparing to receive user inputs and/or provide water modifications. In a low power state, most of the power consuming components of the water conditioner may be disabled, while components involved in waking from the lower power state such as the processor **218**, communication device **212**, and one or more sensors of the sensor module **214** may be operating normally or at a reduced power level. The water conditioner may enter **940** the operational mode based on a schedule (e.g., as determined by a time clock of the processor **218**), based on communication with a user device **108** via the communication device **212**, or based upon output of one or more sensors (e.g., motion or proximity sensor indicating a user nearby, a water flow sensor indicating flow of water into the water conditioner via an input).

(84) During operation **940**, the water conditioner may set **942** one or more valves to an initial or default setting, in implementations that include electronically actuated valves. As an example, with reference to FIG. **6** this may include closing each valve of the injection pump **416**, or with reference to FIG. **7B** this may include closing or opening a valve of the secondary water channel **526** (e.g., depending upon whether a peripheral is connected, or the secondary water channel **526** is used in place of the water input **504**). The water conditioner may also ready **944** one or more injection pumps to prepare for additive injection into a water stream in the primary water channel. As an example, with reference to FIG. **6**, this may include clearing the injection pump **416** and any output supply lines from any additive present from prior uses, such as by operating the injection pump **416** to reverse additive back into its origin cartridge, or into a waste or dump outlet. As another example, with reference to the injection pumps of FIGS. **11A** through **11E** and FIG. **12**, this may include priming each injection pump by filling the cylinder **822**, **862** with additive so that it is ready to quickly inject into the water stream.

(85) The water conditioner may also determine **946** whether there are any pre-configured water modification actions, which may be configured by users of the water conditioner to automatically execute during use of water at the point of use. For example, a water conditioner installed at a shower **112** may be configured to provide a scent additive at the start of a shower, a carbonation additive four minutes after the shower begins, and then a color additive eight minutes after the

shower begins (e.g., which a user might find useful to signal various stages of a shower or the passage of time during the shower). Where there are pre-configured routines **946**, the water conditioner may execute **950** any pre-configured treatments. The water conditioner may also prompt **948** users for manual input (e.g., via an interface such as a set of light indicators and buttons, or otherwise) to trigger water modifications, which may occur instead of or in addition to any pre-configured treatments **950**.

(86) FIG. **17** is a flowchart of another set of steps that may be performed to provide point of use water modification. When the water conditioner receives **960** a treatment selection, either based upon a pre-configured automatic routine, or a manual input, the water conditioner may check **962** one or more treatment limits related to the selections. Treatment limits may be configured on a per-cartridge basis, and may be configured by a manufacturer of the cartridge, or by a user. As an example, some additives that provide a chemical treatment rather than a user experience modification may be limited for health or safety reasons. As another example, a user of the system may configure a limitation on experience related modifications in order to control costs of operation of the system. Limitations may be enforced over a period of time (e.g., 30 minutes), and may be per-use (e.g., per button press to inject the additive), per-volume (e.g., total amount of additive injected), per-user (e.g., some users may have limitations, while others do not), and in other ways.

(87) Where a selected use is not allowed **964** due to being outside some treatment limit, the water conditioner may provide **966** a treatment warning indicating that a selected use is outside allowed limits (e.g., flashing of light indicators, audible warning, etc.). Where a use is allowed **964** and within treatment limits, the water conditioner may determine **968** one or more cartridges associated with the selection. Depending upon a particular implementation, the associated cartridge may be determined **968** by a correspondence with an input (e.g., with reference to FIG. **5**, each of a set of buttons **312** may correspond to a single cartridge), or may be a stored configuration accessible by the processor **218**. The water conditioner may also determine **970** an output channel for the additive, which may depend upon the particular cartridge, whether the water conditioner has a secondary water channel and/or attached peripheral device, or whether the water conditioner has multiple other water inputs or water outputs.

(88) The water conditioner may also reconfigure **972** one or more valves based upon the selection. Implementations such as that shown in FIG. **7A** may not include any electrically actuated valves and so would not require per-treatment reconfiguration. Other implementations, such as that shown in FIG. **6**, or implementations that allow for attachment of peripheral devices, may include one or more electrically actuated valves that may need to be configured to a certain state during each additive treatment. As an example, in an implementation including an attached peripheral device such as a spray handle, the injection of a color additive may modify water flowing to the primary shower head and the spray handle, or may be excluded from one water stream or the other. In such implementations, a valve may be automatically actuated as the color additive is injected into the water stream in order to confine the water modification to the water stream flowing to the primary shower head, for example.

(89) Once the water conditioner is configured for injecting the selected water modification, one or more injection pumps may be operated **974** to introduce additives into the water stream. Injection of additives may be gradual, or may be instantaneous. As an example, with reference to an injection pump such as that shown in FIG. **11A**, the electric motor **802** may be operated in small steps or increments over a period of time (e.g., between about 5 seconds and about 60 seconds) to gradually introduce additive, or may be operated to provide a larger dose over a shorter period of time (e.g., a full cylinder **822** of additive in between about 1 second and about 5 seconds). The characteristics of a particular injection pump may be determined and configured for the water conditioner such that the processor **218** is able to readily convert each treatment selection to the operation of the injection pump. As an example, where a particular injection pump is configured to operate in steps that

displace a 0.1 ml volume, the processor **218** may be configured to convert each ml of selected additive into 10 steps for that pumps electric motor. Such information may be statically configured, or may be configured from time-to-time based upon the output of a flow sensor, to accommodate varying mechanical tolerances and/or changes in operation over time. At each use, the water conditioner may also update **976** a set of use history information that is stored locally or on the remote server **106**. Use history may include such information as number of uses of each cartridge, volume extracted from each cartridge, and more general/aggregated analytics information about usage patterns across multiple users and water conditioners. Use data may be used to provide warnings to users when cartridges are nearly exhausted, or may be used to automatically initiate cartridge recycling, reconditioning, or reordering activities.

(90) As has been described in the context of FIG. **3**, some implementations of the water conditioner **200** may include a storage reservoir **222** and water transport device **224** operable to capture water at a point of use, such as prior to entering a drain, so that it can be stored and treated for subsequent use. FIG. **18A** provides an example of a water capture device in the form of a drain ring **1004** that may be installed at a point of use in order to capture water as it is used, prior to entering the primary infrastructure **11** or after entering the primary infrastructure but prior to being expelled to the water waste output. Water captured by the drain ring **1004** may be diverted to the storage reservoir **222** via modular infrastructure **13**, as has been described. A shower pan **1000** may be positioned to receive water from a shower **112**, with such water coming from the fresh water input **12** or a point of use water conditioner. The shower pan **1000** includes a drain **1002** by which water from the shower **112** will enter the primary infrastructure **11** if not captured. The drain ring **1004** is placed around the drain **1002**, and includes a raised edge (e.g., see a raised edge **1010** in FIG. **18B**) so that water within the shower pan **1000** will gather up to a certain depth before spilling over the drain ring **1004** and into the primary infrastructure **11**. The drain ring **1004** includes an inlet **1006** on a lower exterior of the raised edge **1010** which pooling water may enter into a hollow cavity within the drain ring **1004**. An outlet channel **1008** couples the drain ring **1004** to a reservoir pump **1012** (e.g., such as the water transport **224** of the water conditioner **200**), such that water entering the inlet **1006** may be transported from the shower pan **1000** to a storage reservoir (e.g., such as the storage reservoir **222**) for storage, treatment, and subsequent use. As can be seen in FIG. **18B**, the height of the raised edge **1010** may be selected to allow for pooling water to reach a depth where the inlet **1006** is at least partially submerged, while preventing water from pooling to a depth that is uncomfortable and/or unsafe. FIG. **18C** shows a side elevation of the drain ring **1004**, with the drain **1002** illustrated as a set of dashed lines below the surface of the shower pan **1000**.

(91) Water capture devices may be implemented in varying ways other than as the ring **1004**, and may be implemented for other points of use besides the shower pan **1000**. For example, a water capture device may be implemented as a plug that is inserted into the drain in a shower or sink, or may be implemented as an inline capture device on a drain hose of a washing machine.

(92) A single room may have one or more point of use devices **104** with varying functions. As an example, a master bathroom may have a first point of use water conditioner (e.g., such as the water conditioner **500**) installed at a shower **112** in order to modify water during bathing, a second point of use water conditioner (e.g., such as the water conditioner **200**) installed at a sink in order to modify water during handwashing or dental hygiene, and a third point of use water conditioner capable of capturing, storing, treating, and re-using water (e.g., such as the water conditioner **200** including the storage reservoir **222** and water transport **224**) positioned at or on a wall of the room. Water used at the sink **110** and shower **112** may be captured by the third point of use water conditioner, and may be provided for subsequent use to the toilet **118**, or to the first and/or second point of use water conditioner.

(93) It should be understood that the point of use water conditioner **300** of FIG. **5** is an example only, and that various implementations of water conditioners **300** may have different shapes, sizes, numbers and positions of cartridges and cartridge receivers, and other characteristics. With

reference to FIG. 19A, The water conditioner **320** may have the same or similar features as those shown in FIGS. 3-5, and the case is circular with the cartridge receivers **324** inset upon the curved edge of the case, and configured to receive and couple with a cartridge **322**, as has been described. A display **326** on the front of the water conditioner **320** may be an LCD, LED, or other display, and may be configured to display various operational characteristics of the water conditioner **300**. The interface **328** shown rendered on the display **326** of FIG. 19A shows a current measured pH of the water, a duration of the current shower, which may count up to track total time, or may count down from a configured number, and a measured temperature of the water. The display **326** may provide visual alerts based on displayed characteristics, such as visually indicating by a color or symbol that the water is above or below a configured temperature threshold, or that the duration of a shower is exceeding a configured limit. Alerts may also be provided by audio tones projected by a speaker of the water conditioner **320**. The interface **328** also displays information associated with a corresponding cartridge and button (e.g., “pH Enhance”, “Rosemary & Pink Grapefruit”, “Calm”, and “Revive”), indicating to a user the effects of each button. Such information may be configured by a user upon installation of each cartridge **322**, or may be determined automatically based upon information read from a cartridge identifier, as has been described.

(94) FIG. 19B shows another exemplary water conditioner **330** that may have the same or similar features as those shown in FIGS. 3-5, and that includes an inset case **334** that may be installed in a cavity within a tiled surround **332**. Water connections may be within the case **334** and/or surrounding wall. The water conditioner **330** also includes cartridge receivers **340** that are configured to receive and couple with a cartridge **336**, as has been described. A display **338** may be, for example, an LED or LCD display that is configured to provide various operational information, and may also have touch input capabilities for selecting treatments and interacting with the water conditioner **330**.

(95) FIG. 19C shows another exemplary water conditioner **350** that may have the same or similar features as those shown in FIGS. 3-5, including a set of cartridge receivers **354** that are configured to receive and couple to a set of cartridges **352**. The water conditioner **350** includes a slot **356** sized and configured to receive an interface device **358**. The interface device **358** may be, for example, a smartphone, tablet, or proprietary mobile device that includes a display, a user interface, and other features similar to the user device **108**. The interface device **358** may be communicatively coupled to the water conditioner **350** by insertion into the slot **356**, or may be wirelessly coupled to the water conditioner **350** and placed in the slot for safe storage during a shower. When coupled to the water conditioner **350**, the interface device **358** may display operational characteristics, receive user inputs to interact with and configure the water conditioner **350**, and may provide user specific configurations (e.g., each user within a household may carry their personal configurations between water conditioners).

COMBINATIONS

Example 1

(96) A residential water supplementation system comprising: (a) a case configured to be positioned at a point of use within a residence; (b) a water channel configured to receive a volume of water from a water source that is coupled to a water input of the water channel and provide the volume of water to a water output; (c) one or more cartridge receivers; (d) one or more injection nozzles in fluid communication with the water channel; (e) one or more pumps, wherein each pump: (i) is coupled to at least one of the one or more cartridge receivers; (ii) is coupled to an injection nozzle of the one or more injection nozzles; (iii) is operable to extract a volume of chemistry from a cartridge that is coupled to the at least one cartridge receiver and inject the volume of chemistry into the volume of water via the injection nozzle; and (f) a processor configured to cause the one or more pumps to modify the volume of water within the water channel based on a selected treatment.

Example 2

(97) The system of example 1, further comprising a user interface operable by a user to provide the

selected treatment.

Example 3

(98) The system of example 2, wherein the user interface includes, for each of the one or more cartridge receivers, at least one button operable to provide the selected treatment from that cartridge receiver, and at least one visual indicator configured to provide information on that cartridge receiver.

Example 4

(99) The system of any one or more of examples 1 through 3, further comprising: (a) a storage reservoir of the water channel that is configured to store water; (b) a transport pump operable to: (i) transport the volume of water from a precedent point of use to the storage reservoir; and (ii) transport the volume of water from the storage reservoir to the water output.

Example 5

(100) The system of any one or more of examples 1 through 4, wherein each of the one or more cartridge receivers includes a cartridge reader that is configured to read a set of cartridge information from an identifier of a cartridge that is coupled to that cartridge receiver.

Example 6

(101) The system of example 5, wherein the cartridge reader is a wireless signal transceiver configured to receive and provide the set of cartridge information to the processor.

Example 7

(102) The system of any one or more of examples 5 through 6, wherein the processor is configured to provide the set of cartridge information to a remote server via a communication device.

Example 8

(103) The system of any one or more of examples 5 through 7, wherein the processor is configured to determine whether the cartridge that is coupled to the cartridge receiver is usable based on the set of cartridge information and, when the cartridge that is coupled to the cartridge receiver is not usable, prevent the one or more pumps from extracting chemistry from the unusable cartridge.

Example 9

(104) The system of any one or more of examples 5 through 8, wherein the case is configured to be positioned at a shower, and both the water input and the water output are configured to be coupled to pre-existing connectors of the shower.

Example 10

(105) The system of any one or more of examples 1 through 9, wherein at least one pump of the one or more pumps includes: (a) a cylinder; (b) a motor operable to rotate a pinion; and (c) a piston shaft that includes a piston head at a distal end that is positioned within the cylinder, and a rack at a proximal end that is in contact with the pinion such that rotation of the pinion in a first rotation direction or a second rotation direction causes the piston head to displace a volume of the cylinder in a first direction and a second direction.

Example 11

(106) The system of example 10, wherein the at least one pump further includes: (a) an input channel that is coupled to the at least one cartridge and to an input valve of the cylinder; and (b) an output channel that is coupled to the injection nozzle and to an output valve of the cylinder; wherein operation of the motor in the first rotation direction causes the cylinder to be filled from the at least one cartridge via the input channel, and operation of the motor in the second rotation direction causes the cylinder to be emptied via the output channel.

Example 12

(107) The system of example 11, wherein the at least one pump is configured to operate in equal steps based upon control signals from the processor, and wherein the processor is configured to: (a) determine the volume of chemistry associated with the selected treatment; (b) determine a number of steps that corresponds to the volume of chemistry; and (c) operate the at least one pump based upon the determined number of steps.

Example 13

(108) The system of any one or more of examples 11 through 12, wherein a diameter of the pinion is selected to provide a displacement pressure from the cylinder that exceeds a pressure within the water channel.

Example 14

(109) The system of any one or more of examples 1 through 13, wherein the system is part of a modular infrastructure that is separate from a pre-existing primary infrastructure.

Example 15

(110) The system of any one or more of examples 1 through 14, wherein the processor is a single processor within the case.

Example 16

(111) The system of any one or more of examples 1 through 15, further comprising a communication device, wherein the processor comprises a first processor within the case, and a second processor within a user device that is in communication with the first processor via the communication device.

Example 17

(112) The system of any one or more of examples 1 through 16, further comprising a sensor module that includes sensors capable of measuring the volume of water for one or more of: (a) water temperature; (b) mineral content; (c) acidity; (d) chemical content; (e) particulate content; (f) microbial content; (g) fungal content; (h) viral content; or (i) oxygen demand.

Example 18

(113) The system of any one or more of examples 1 through 17, wherein the one or more pumps includes a single pump that is coupled to at least two of the one or more cartridge receivers.

Example 19

(114) The system of any one or more of examples 1 through 18, wherein there is a one-to-one correspondence between the one or more pumps and the one or more cartridge receivers.

Example 20

(115) The system of any one or more of examples 1 through 19, wherein the water output includes a primary water output and a secondary water output, and wherein the primary water output is coupled to a pre-existing point of use and the secondary water output is configured to couple to a peripheral device.

Example 21

(116) The system of any one or more of examples 1 through 20, further comprising: (a) a power source that provides power to the processor and the one or more pumps; and (b) a turbine positioned within the water channel and configured to provide power to the power source while the volume of water is passing through the water channel.

Example 22

(117) The system of any one or more of examples 1 through 21, further comprising a flow sensor positioned within the water channel and configured to indicate when the volume of water is passing through the water channel, wherein the processor is configured to operate in a low power mode or a normal power mode based upon the indication from the flow sensor.

Example 23

(118) The system of any one or more of examples 1 through 22, further comprising a filtration module configured to filter the volume of water as it passes through the water channel and separate a set of contaminants from the volume of water.

Example 24

(119) The system of example 23, wherein the filtration module includes a filter cartridge receiver configured to receive a filter cartridge that includes a filter for separating and retaining the set of contaminants.

Example 25

(120) The system of any one or more of examples 1 through 24, wherein the processor is configured to: (a) receive a set of cartridge information from a cartridge reader of a cartridge receiver of the one or more cartridge receivers in response to a cartridge being coupled to the cartridge receiver; (b) identify a chemistry associated with the cartridge based on the set of cartridge information.

Example 26

(121) The system of example 25, wherein the processor is configured to: (a) determine one or more use limitations associated with the chemistry based on the set of cartridge information and a configured set of use limitations; and (b) cause the one or more pumps to modify the volume of water based on the selected treatment and the one or more use limitations.

Example 27

(122) The system of example 26, wherein the configured set of use limitations includes one or more of: (a) a limited number of chemistry injections over a duration of time; and (b) a limited volume of chemistry injections over the duration of time.

Example 28

(123) The system of any one or more of examples 1 through 27, wherein the processor is configured to: (a) receive a set of cartridge information from a cartridge reader of a cartridge receiver of the one or more cartridge receivers in response to a cartridge being coupled to the cartridge receiver; (b) identify a cartridge identifier based on the set of cartridge information; (c) determine whether the cartridge has been previously coupled with any cartridge receiver of the one or more cartridge receivers based on the cartridge identifier and a configured set of paired cartridges; and (d) provide a warning to a user interface where the cartridge has not been previously coupled with any cartridge receiver of the one or more cartridge receivers.

Example 29

(124) The system of any one or more of examples 1 through 28, wherein the processor is configured to determine the selected treatment based upon a pre-configured treatment, and wherein the pre-configured treatment includes two or more discrete chemistry injection events to be performed by the one or more pumps based upon a duration of time since the volume of water began flowing through the water channel.

Example 30

(125) The system of any one or more of examples 1 through 29, further comprising a communication device, wherein the processor is in communication with one or all of a water use hub, a user device, and a remote server via the communication device.

Example 31

(126) A residential point of use reservoir device comprising: (a) a water capture device in fluid communication with a precedent use water, wherein the water capture device includes a sensor configured to provide a signal that indicates the presence of the precedent use water; (b) a storage reservoir configured to hold a volume of water; (c) a first channel that provides a fluid connection between the water capture device and the storage reservoir; (d) one or more cartridge receivers; (e) one or more injection nozzles in fluid communication with the storage reservoir; (f) one or more pumps, wherein each pump: (i) is coupled to at least one of the one or more cartridge receivers; (ii) is coupled to an injection nozzle of the one or more injection nozzles; and (iii) is operable to extract a volume of chemistry from a cartridge that is coupled to the at least one cartridge receiver and inject the volume of chemistry into the volume of water via the injection nozzle; (g) a second channel that provides a fluid connection between the storage reservoir and a subsequent point of use; (h) one or more transport pumps configured to: (i) transport the precedent use water to the storage reservoir based on the signal from the sensor; and (ii) transport water from the storage reservoir to the subsequent point of use.

Example 32

(127) The device of example 31, wherein the water capture devices comprises a ring configured to

fit around a drain at a precedent point of use, the ring including: (a) a raised edge that prevents the precedent use water from flowing into the drain when the precedent use water is below a depth corresponding to the height of the raised edge; (b) an inlet on an exterior sidewall that allows the precedent use water to enter a cavity within the ring; and (c) an outlet that couples the cavity within the ring to the first channel; wherein the sensor is positioned within the cavity of the ring and is configured to provide the signal when the precedent use water pools within the cavity of the ring.

Example 33

(128) The device of any one or more of examples 31 through 32, wherein each of the one or more cartridge receivers comprises a structure having a shape configured to receive and align a cartridge valve of a cartridge with a supply shaft of a pump of the one or more pumps that corresponds to that cartridge receiver.

Example 34

(129) The device of any one or more of examples 31 through 33, wherein at least one of the first channel and the second channel includes tubing.

Example 35

(130) The device of example 34, wherein the tubing comprises a first tube usable to receive water from the ring, and a second tube usable to dispose of water via the ring.

Example 36

(131) The device of any one or more of examples 31 through 35, wherein the one or more cartridge receivers includes at least two cartridge receivers, and wherein there is a one-to-one correspondence between the one or more cartridge receivers and the one or more pumps.

Example 37

(132) The device of any one or more of examples 31 through 36, wherein at least one pump of the one or more pumps includes: (a) a cylinder; (b) a motor operable to rotate a pinion; and (c) a piston shaft that includes a piston head at a distal end that is positioned within the cylinder, and a rack at a proximal end that is in contact with the pinion such that rotation of the pinion in a first rotation direction or a second rotation direction causes the piston head to displace a volume of the cylinder in a first direction and or second direction.

Example 38

(133) The system of example 37, wherein the at least one pump further includes: (a) an input channel that is coupled to the at least one cartridge and to an input valve of the cylinder; and (b) an output channel that is coupled to the injection nozzle and to an output valve of the cylinder; wherein operation of the motor in the first rotation direction causes the cylinder to be filled via the input channel, and operation of the motor in the second rotation direction causes the cylinder to be emptied via the output channel.

Example 39

(134) The system of example 38, wherein the at least one pump is configured to operate in equal steps based upon control signals from a processor, and wherein the processor is configured to: (a) determine the volume of chemistry associated with the selected treatment; (b) determine a number of steps that corresponds to the volume of chemistry; and (c) operate the at least one pump based upon the determined number of steps.

Example 40

(135) The device of any one or more of examples 31 through 39, wherein the filter is replaceable.

Example 41

(136) A method for residential water supplementation comprising: (a) providing a water supplementation unit configured to receive a volume of water from a water source and provide the volume of water to a water output; (b) by a processor, receiving a user input via a user interface of the water supplementation unit; (c) by the processor, determining a water modification associated with the user input; (d) by the processor and based on the water modification, causing a pump of the water supplementation unit to extract a volume of chemistry from a cartridge that is coupled to

the water supplementation unit and inject the volume of chemistry into the volume of water.

Example 42

(137) The method of example 41, further comprising, by a cartridge reader, reading a set of cartridge information an identifier of the cartridge that coupled to water supplementation unit.

Example 43

(138) The method of example 42, further comprising, by a processor, providing the set of cartridge information to a remote server via a communication device.

Example 44

(139) The method of any one or more of examples 42 through 43, further comprising, by a processor, determining whether the cartridge that is coupled to the water supplementation unit is usable based on the set of cartridge information, and, when the cartridge is not usable, preventing the pump from extracting chemistry from the unusable cartridge.

Example 45

(140) The method of any one or more of examples 41 through 44, wherein the pump is configured to operate in equal steps based upon control signals from the processor, the method further comprising, by the processor: (a) determining the volume of chemistry associated with the water modification; (b) determining a number of steps that corresponds to the volume of chemistry; and (c) operating the pump based upon the determined number of steps.

Example 46

(141) The method of any one or more of examples 41 through 45, further comprising, by a filtration module, filtering the volume of water as it passes through water supplementation unit to separate a set of contaminants from the volume of water.

Example 47

(142) The method of any one or more of examples 41 through 46, further comprising: (a) by the processor, receiving a set of cartridge information from a cartridge reader in response to the cartridge being coupled to the water supplementation unit; (b) by the processor, identifying a chemistry associated with the cartridge based on the set of cartridge information.

Example 48

(143) The method of example 47, further comprising: (a) by the processor, determining one or more use limitations associated with the chemistry based on the set of cartridge information and a configured set of use limitations; and (b) by the processor, causing the pump to modify the volume of water based on the selected treatment and the one or more use limitations.

Example 49

(144) The method of example 48, wherein the configured set of use limitations includes one or more of: (a) a limited number of chemistry injections over a duration of time; and (b) a limited volume of chemistry injections over the duration of time.

Example 50

(145) The method of any one or more of examples 41 through 49, further comprising: (a) by the processor, receiving a set of cartridge information from a cartridge reader in response to the cartridge being coupled to the water supplementation unit; (b) by the processor, identifying a cartridge identifier based on the set of cartridge information; (c) by the processor, determining whether the cartridge has been previously coupled with any water supplementation unit based on the cartridge identifier and a configured set of paired cartridges; and (d) by the processor, providing a warning to the user interface where the cartridge has not been previously coupled with any cartridge receiver of the one more cartridge receivers.

(146) The dimensions and values disclosed herein are not to be understood as being strictly limited to the exact numerical values recited. Instead, unless otherwise specified, each such dimension is intended to mean both the recited value and a functionally equivalent range surrounding that value. For example, a dimension disclosed as “40 mm” is intended to mean “about 40 mm.”

(147) Every document cited herein, including any cross referenced or related patent or application

and any patent application or patent to which this application claims priority or benefit thereof, is hereby incorporated herein by reference in its entirety unless expressly excluded or otherwise limited. The citation of any document is not an admission that it is prior art with respect to any invention disclosed or claimed herein or that it alone, or in any combination with any other reference or references, teaches, suggests or discloses any such invention. Further, to the extent that any meaning or definition of a term in this document conflicts with any meaning or definition of the same term in a document incorporated by reference, the meaning or definition assigned to that term in this document shall govern.

(148) While particular embodiments of the present invention have been illustrated and described, it would be obvious to those skilled in the art that various other changes and modifications can be made without departing from the spirit and scope of the invention. It is therefore intended to cover in the appended claims all such changes and modifications that are within the scope of this invention.

Claims

1. A residential point of use reservoir device comprising: (a) a water capture device in fluid communication with a precedent use water, wherein the water capture device includes a sensor configured to provide a signal that indicates the presence of the precedent use water and a ring configured to fit around a drain at a precedent point of use, the ring including: (i) a raised edge that prevents the precedent use water from flowing into the drain when the precedent use water is below a depth corresponding to the height of the raised edge; (ii) an inlet on an exterior sidewall that allows the precedent use water to enter a cavity within the ring; and (iii) an outlet that couples the cavity within the ring to the first channel; wherein the sensor is positioned within the cavity of the ring and is configured to provide the signal when the precedent use water pools within the cavity of the ring; (b) a storage reservoir configured to hold a volume of water; (c) a first channel that provides a fluid connection between the water capture device and the storage reservoir; (d) a sensor module having sensor capabilities for determining or measuring one or more water characteristics selected from the group consisting of pH, hardness, clarity, mineral content, acidity, chemical content, particular content, microbial content, fungal content, viral content, biochemical oxygen demand, and combinations thereof; (e) one or more cartridge receivers; (f) one or more injection nozzles in fluid communication with the storage reservoir; (g) one or more pumps, wherein each pump: (i) is coupled to at least one of the one or more cartridge receivers; (ii) is coupled to an injection nozzle of the one or more injection nozzles; and (iii) is operable to extract a volume of additive from a cartridge that is coupled to the at least one cartridge receiver and inject the volume of additive into the volume of water via the injection nozzle; (h) a second channel that provides a fluid connection between the storage reservoir and a subsequent point of use; (i) one or more transport pumps configured to: (i) transport the precedent use water to the storage reservoir based on the signal from the sensor; (ii) transport water from the storage reservoir to the subsequent point of use; and (j) a water conditioner that comprises: (i) a case; (ii) a water input extending from the case in flow communication with the first channel; (iii) a water output extending from the case in flow communication with the second channel; (iv) the one or more cartridge receivers comprising a plurality of cartridge receivers defining a respective plurality of recesses extending into the case; (v) the one or more cartridges comprising a plurality of cartridges removably attached to the respective plurality of cartridge receivers; and (vi) the one or more injection nozzles comprising a plurality of injection nozzles within the case and in flow communication with an internal water channel between the water input and the water output, wherein each injection nozzle of the plurality of injection nozzles is configured to inject the volume of additive from one of the respective plurality of cartridges.

2. The device of claim 1, wherein each of the one or more cartridge receivers comprises a structure

having a shape configured to receive and align a cartridge valve of a cartridge with a supply shaft of a pump of the one or more pumps that corresponds to that cartridge receiver.

3. The device of claim 1, wherein at least one of the first channel and the second channel includes tubing.

4. The device of claim 3, wherein the tubing comprises a first tube usable to receive water from the ring, and a second tube usable to dispose of water via the ring.

5. The device of claim 1, wherein the one or more cartridge receivers includes at least two cartridge receivers, and wherein there is a one-to-one correspondence between the one or more cartridge receivers and the one or more pumps.

6. The system of claim 1, wherein at least one pump of the one or more pumps includes: (a) a cylinder; (b) a motor operable to rotate a pinion; and (c) a piston shaft that includes a piston head at a distal end that is positioned within the cylinder, and a rack at a proximal end that is in contact with the pinion such that rotation of the pinion in a first rotation direction or a second rotation direction causes the piston head to displace a volume of the cylinder in a first direction and or second direction.

7. The system of claim 6, wherein the at least one pump further includes: (a) an input channel that is coupled to the cartridge and to an input valve of the cylinder; and (b) an output channel that is coupled to the injection nozzle and to an output valve of the cylinder; wherein operation of the motor in the first rotation direction causes the cylinder to be filled via the input channel, and operation of the motor in the second rotation direction causes the cylinder to be emptied via the output channel.

8. The system of claim 7, wherein the at least one pump is configured to operate in equal steps based upon control signals from a processor, and wherein the processor is configured to: (a) determine the volume of additive associated with the selected treatment; (b) determine a number of steps that corresponds to the volume of additive; and (c) operate the at least one pump based upon the determined number of steps.

9. The system of claim 1, further comprising a filtration module comprising a replaceable filter.

10. The system of claim 1, wherein an outside of the case includes a set of buttons and a set of status indicators, wherein each status indicator of the set of indicators corresponds to a respective button of the set of buttons; and wherein each button of the set of buttons corresponds to a respective cartridge of the plurality of cartridges such that actuation of a respective button of the set of buttons is configured to cause the additive from the cartridge corresponding to the actuated button to be injected into the internal water channel.
