

**INVESTIGATION ON WATER SOFTENING USING SURFACTANT
MODIFIED BENTONITE ADSORBENT COATING**

by

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**Thesis submitted in fulfillment of the
requirement for the degree of
Master of Science**

April 2017

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

In the name of ALLAH S.W.T, the most gracious and merciful, I would like to express my deepest gratitude to ALLAH S.W.T the Almighty for giving me chance to complete my research and thesis. All praise belongs to ALLAH S.W.T.

I would like to give special dedication to my beloved parents, Ab Kadir bin Yunus and Siti Rahmah bt Hashim, and my family members for their prays, encouragement, and endless support through my study.

I am also grateful and indebted to my respected supervisor, Dr. Suzylawati Ismail for her valuable guidance, encouragement, support, motivation and knowledge help me successfully carried out this research. The criticism and suggestion from her make me be able to get a lot of ideas, improving my knowledge and also skills during the study. With her assistance, I also able to finish my research and thesis without any hurdles.

I also would like to acknowledge all staff of School of Chemical Engineering, Universiti Sains Malaysia for their kind help, assistance, and providing me necessary technical suggestion for my research pursuit. Not forgotten to all my friends that help me to great extent to complete the task.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

	Page
ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS	ii
TABLE OF CONTENTS	iii
LIST OF TABLES	viii
LIST OF FIGURES	ix
LIST OF PLATES	xiii
LIST OF SYMBOLS	xiv
LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS	xvi
ABSTRAK	xviii
ABSTRACT	xx
CHAPTER ONE: INTRODUCTION	
1.1 Clean and Hard Water	1
1.2 Hard Water in Community	3
1.3 Effects of Hard Water	9
1.4 Problem Statement	10
1.5 Research Objectives	12
1.6 Scope of Study	12
1.7 Organization of thesis	14
CHAPTER TWO: LITERATURE REVIEW	
2.1 Water Hardness	16
2.2 Health Effect of Calcium and Magnesium Intake	17

2.3	Environmental Effect of Calcium and Magnesium	19
2.4	Hard Water in Industry	20
2.4.1	Textile Industry	20
2.4.2	Agricultural Industry	21
2.4.3	Food Industry	22
2.5	Treatment of Softening Hard Water	23
2.5.1	Biological Treatment	23
2.5.2	Chemical Treatment	24
2.5.3	Physical Treatment	24
2.5.3.1	Ion Exchange	25
2.5.3.2	Membrane Filtration	26
2.5.3.3	Electrochemical	27
2.5.3.4	Adsorption	28
2.6	Adsorption Process	28
2.6.1	Physical Adsorption	28
2.6.2	Chemical Adsorption	29
2.7	Adsorbents and Adsorbates	30
2.7.1	Activated Carbon	30
2.7.2	Agricultural sorbent/bio-sorbent	31
2.7.3	Natural Clay	32
2.7.3.1	Pumice Stone	32
2.7.3.2	Kaolin	33
2.7.3.3	Diatomaceous Earth	34
2.7.3.4	Bentonite	34
2.8	Surfactant	37

2.8.1	Non-Ionic Surfactant	37
2.8.2	Amphoteric Surfactant	38
2.8.3	Cationic Surfactant	38
2.8.4	Anionic Surfactant	39
	2.8.4.1 Sodium Dodecylbenzene Sulfonate	40
2.9	Adsorbent Coating	41
2.10	Adsorption Isotherm	42
	2.10.1 Langmuir Isotherm	42
	2.10.2 Freundlich Isotherm	43
	2.10.3 Temkin Isotherm	44
2.11	Adsorption Kinetics	44
	2.11.1 Pseudo First Order	45
	2.11.2 Pseudo Second Order	45
2.12	Thermodynamic of Adsorption	46

CHAPTER THREE: RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

3.1	Introduction	48
3.2	Flow Chart	48
3.3	Chemicals and Materials	50
	3.3.1 Adsorbate	50
	3.3.2 Adsorbents	51
	3.3.3 Surfactant	51
	3.3.4 Binder	51
3.4	Preparation of hard water sample	52
3.5	Preparation of Adsorbent Coating	52

3.6	Formulation Study of Adsorbent Coating for Hard Water Softening	53
3.6.1	Screening of Potential Adsorbents	53
3.6.2	Effect of Surfactant Ratio	54
3.6.3	Effect on Type of Binder	54
3.6.4	Study Effect of Adsorbent to Binder Ratio	54
3.7	Characterization	55
3.8	Adsorption Experiment	55
3.9	Batch Equilibrium Studies	56
3.9.1	Effect of Initial Hard Water Concentration	57
3.9.2	Effect of Mixing Rate	57
3.9.3	Effect of Different Temperature	57
3.9.4	Effect of Different pH	58
3.10	Desorption Study	58

CHAPTER FOUR: RESULTS AND DISCUSSIONS

4.1	Introduction	59
4.2	Adsorbent Screening	59
4.3	Effect of Surfactant Ratio	62
4.4	Effect on Type of Binder	64
4.5	Effect of Adsorbent to Binder Ratio	66
4.6	Characterization	69
4.6.1	Surface Morphology Analysis	69
4.6.2	Elemental Analysis	70
4.6.3	FTIR Spectra	72
4.6.4	Determination of Surface Charge	73

4.7	Effect of Initial Hard Water Concentration	74
4.8	Effect of Mixing Speed	77
4.9	Effect of Different Temperature	80
4.10	Effect of Different pH	83
4.11	Optimum Condition	87
4.12	Adsorption investigation of single calcium and magnesium	87
4.13	Adsorption Isotherm	88
4.14	Adsorption Kinetic	91
4.15	Adsorption Thermodynamic	98
4.16	Desorption Study	99
4.17	Reusability and recovery of SMB adsorbent coating	100

CHAPTER FIVE: CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

5.1	Conclusions	104
5.2	Recommendations	106

REFERENCES	107
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APPENDICES

Appendix A: Experimental Rig Diagram.

Appendix B: Composition of pumice stone

Appendix C: Total Water Hardness Calculation

Appendix D: Calculation of Synthetic Hard Water

LIST OF PUBLICATION

LIST OF TABLES

		Page
Table 1.1	Hard water range in Malaysia and in oversea countries.	3
Table 2.1	Hard Water Scale (Water Quality Association, 2016).	16
Table 2.2	Adsorption capacities of different type of adsorbent.	36
Table 3.1	List of chemicals used	50
Table 3.2	Ratios of SMB adsorbent coating	55
Table 4.1	Elemental composition from EDX analysis for SMB adsorbent coating before and after adsorption.	71
Table 4.2	Surface charge of bentonite, SMB, and SMB adsorbent coating	73
Table 4.3	Optimum condition of hardness adsorption by SMB adsorbent coating.	87
Table 4.4	Adsorption isotherm parameter for Langmuir, Freundlich and Temkin isotherm model at temperature 5°C, 30°C, and 70°C.	90
Table 4.5	Pseudo first order and pseudo second order of adsorption kinetic parameters at 5°C	95
Table 4.6	Pseudo first order and pseudo second order of adsorption kinetic parameters at 30°C	96
Table 4.7	Pseudo first order and pseudo second order of adsorption kinetic parameters at 70°C	97
Table 4.8	Thermodynamic parameters at temperature 5°C, 30°C and 70°C	99
Table 4.9	Desorption of calcium and magnesium in 0.1M H ₂ SO ₄ .	101

LIST OF FIGURES

	Page	
Figure 1.1	Hard water area in United States	4
Figure 1.2	Hard water are in England and Wales	5
Figure 1.3	Hard water area in Ireland	6
Figure 1.4	Hard water area in Netherland	7
Figure 1.5	Hard water area in Perlis (Malaysia)	8
Figure 1.6	Hard Water are in Kelantan (Malaysia)	8
Figure 2.1	Schematic diagram of physical adsorption and desorption	29
Figure 2.2	Schematic diagram for chemical adsorption	29
Figure 2.3	Molecular structure of SDBS	40
Figure 3.1	Flowchart of the experiment	49
Figure 4.1	Total hardness removal for kaolin, bentonite, and pumice stone (120mg/L hardness, 0.3g adsorbent, 200 ml hard water, 300 rpm speed, 30°C (room temperature))	60
Figure 4.2	Removal of (a) calcium and (b) magnesium using kaolin, bentonite and pumice stone (120mg/L hardness, 0.3g adsorbent, 200ml hard water, 300 rpm speed, 30°C (room temperature))	61
Figure 4.3	Total hardness removal with different surfactant ratio (120mg/L hardness, 200ml hard water, 300 rpm speed, 30°C (room temperature))	63
Figure 4.4	Removal of (a) calcium and (b) magnesium with different surfactant ratio (120mg/L hardness, 200ml hard water, 300 rpm speed, 30°C (room temperature))	64
Figure 4.5	Total hardness removal using different binder (PVAc, PVAI and Paint) (120mg/L hardness, 0.3g bentonite, 0.15g SDBS, 1g binder, 200ml hard water, 300 rpm speed,	65

	30°C (room temperature))	
Figure 4.6	Removal of (a) calcium and (b) magnesium using different type of binder (PVAc, PVAI, and Paint) (120mg/L hardness 0.3g bentonite, 0.15g SDBS, 1g binder, 200ml hard water, 300 rpm speed, 30°C (room temperature))	66
Figure 4.7	Hardness removal at different adsorbent to binder ratio (a) 0.45:0.5 to 0.45:2, (b) 0.75:0.5 to 0.75:2, (c) 1.5:0.5 to 1.5:2, and (d) 2.25:0.5 to 2.25:2 (120mg/L hardness, 200ml hard water, 300 rpm speed, 30°C (room temperature))	68
Figure 4.8	SEM image of SMB adsorbent coating (a) before adsorption and (b) after adsorption	70
Figure 4.9	EDX Analysis for SMB adsorbent coating (a) before and (b) after adsorption	70
Figure 4.10	FTIR Spectra of SMB adsorbent coating (a) before and (b) after adsorption	72
Figure 4.11	Total hardness removal at different initial concentrations (0.75g SMB, 1g binder, 200ml hard water, 300 rpm speed, 30°C (room temperature))	74
Figure 4.12	Adsorption capacity of SMB adsorbent coating at various hard water concentrations (0.75g S, 1g binder, 200ml hard water, 300 rpm speed, 30°C (room temperature))	75
Figure 4.13	Removal of (a) calcium and (b) magnesium at different initial concentration (0.75g SMB, 1g binder, 200ml hard water, 300 rpm speed, 30°C (room temperature))	77
Figure 4.14	Total hardness removal at different mixing speed (300 rpm, 400 rpm and 500 rpm) (0.75g SMB, 1g binder, 120 mg/L hardness, 200ml hard water, 30°C (room temperature))	78
Figure 4.15	Removal of (a) calcium and (b) magnesium at different mixing speed (300 rpm, 400 rpm and 500 rpm) (0.75g SMB, 1g binder, 120 mg/L hardness, 200ml hard water, 30°C (room temperature))	79

Figure 4.16	Total hardness removal at different solution temperature (5°C, 30°C and 70°C) (0.75g SMB, 1g binder, 120 mg/L hardness, 200ml hard water, 300 rpm speed)	81
Figure 4.17	Removal of (a) calcium and (b) magnesium at different solution temperature (5°C, 30°C and 70°C) (0.75g SMB, 1g binder, 120 mg/L hardness, 200ml hard water, 300 rpm speed)	82
Figure 4.18	Mechanism of SMB adsorbent coating at 70°	83
Figure 4.19	Total hardness removal different pH solution (0.75g SMB, 1g binder, 120 mg/L hardness, 200ml hard water, 300 rpm speed, 30°C (room temperature))	84
Figure 4.20	Mechanism of SMB adsorbent coating at acidic condition	85
Figure 4.21	Mechanism of SMB adsorbent coating at alkali condition	85
Figure 4.22	Removal of (a) calcium and (b) magnesium at different pH Solution (0.75g SMB, 1g binder, 120 mg/L hardness, 200ml hard water, 300 rpm speed, 30°C (room temperature))	85
Figure 4.23	Single calcium and magnesium removal by SMB adsorbent coating (0.75g SMB, 1g binder, 120 mg/L, 200ml hard water, 300 rpm speed, 30°C (room temperature))	88
Figure 4.24	Adsorption isotherm of hardness on bentonite modified surfactant adsorbent coating (a) Langmuir (b) Freundlich and (c) Temkin isotherm at temperature 5°C, 30°C and 70°C	89
Figure 4.25	Plot of R_L against C_o (mg/L)	91
Figure 4.26	Pseudo-first order at temperature (a) 5°C, (b) 30°C and (c) 70°C	92
Figure 4.27	Pseudo-second order at temperature (a) 5°C, (b) 30°C and (c) 70°C	93
Figure 4.28	Plot of $\ln(Q_e/C_e)$ vs Q_e for hardness removal by SMB adsorbent coating	98

Figure 4.29	Plot of 'lnk' vs 1/T for hardness removal by SMB adsorbent coating	99
Figure 4.30	Reusability cycle of SMB adsorbent coating (0.75g SMB, 1g binder, 120 mg/L hardness, 200ml hard water, 300 rpm speed, 30°C (room temperature))	102
Figure 4.31	Recovery of SMB adsorbent coating using 0.1M H ₂ SO ₄	103

LIST OF PLATES

	Page
Plate 3.1 Preparation of adsorbent coating	53

LIST OF SYMBOLS

b_T	Temkin isotherm constant
C_o	The initial concentration (mg/L)
C_e	The final concentration (mg/L)
G	Gram
k_L	Langmuir constant relate to energy of adsorption
K_f	Freundlich constant
k_T	Temkin isotherm equilibrium binding constant
k_1	Pseudo first order rate constant
k_2	Pseudo second order rate constant
ml	Milliliter
mV	Millivolts
n	Degree of non-linearity between solution concentration and adsorption
rpm	Rotational per minute
R^2	Correlation coefficient
SMB	Surfactant modified bentonite
q_e	The adsorption capacity at equilibrium
q_m	The maximum adsorption capacity
q_t	The adsorption capacity at any contact time
V	The volume of the solution
W	The mass of the adsorbent
ΔG^0	Gibbs free energy change
ΔH^0	Enthalpy change
ΔS^0	Entropy Change

%

Percentage

°C

Temperature

LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS

AHT	Adsorptive heat transformer
AB	N-Decyl-N-benzyl-N-methylglycine
Al ₂ O ₃	Aluminium dioxide
CD	N-Dodecyl-N-benzyl-N-methylglycine
CTAB	Cetyl trimethylammonium bromide
CPB	Cetyl pyridinium bromide
CPC	Cetylpyridinium chloride
CS	Chitosan
DBT	Dibenzothiophene
DBS	Dodecylbenzene sulfonate
DS	Dodecylsulphate
Fe ₂ O ₃	Iron (III) oxide
HDTMA	Hexadecyltrimethyl ammonium bromide
H ₂ SO ₄	Sulphuric acid
KCl	Potassium chloride
KOH	Potassium Hydroxide
MDC	Microbial desalination cells
MFC	Microbial fuel cell
MO	<i>Moringa oleifera</i>
MgO	Magnesium oxide
NF	Nanofiltration
NaCl	Sodium chloride
NaOH	Sodium hydroxide

OS	1-octanesulfonates
PEI	Polyethyleneimine
PES	Polyethersulfone
PVAc	Polyvinyl acetate
PVAI	Polyvinyl alcohol
SiO ₂	Silicon dioxide
SDBS	Sodium dodecylbenzene sulfonate
SPAN	Suruhanjaya Perkhidmatan Air Negara
TiO ₂	Titanium dioxide
TECI	The Essential Chemical Industry
TTAB	Tetradecyltrimethylammonium bromide
WHO	World Health Organization

**PENYIASATAN KE ATAS PELEMBUTAN AIR KERAS DENGAN
MENGUNAKAN LAPISAN PENJERAP SURFAKTAN DIUBAHSUAI
DENGAN BENTONIT**

ABSTRAK

Lapisan penjerap bentonit (SMB) yang telah diubahsuai dengan menggunakan surfaktan sodium dodecylbenzene sulfonate (SDBS) telah dihasilkan bagi penyingkiran ion Ca^{2+} dan Mg^{2+} daripada air keras. Penjerap telah dianalisis dengan menggunakan SEM, EDX, Zeta-meter dan FTIR analisis. Lapisan penjerap mempunyai potensi untuk menggantikan teknik rawatan pelembutkan konvensional yang mahal serta dapat mengurangkan penggunaan bahan kimia yang berlebihan (pemandakan kimia) dengan mengaplikasikannya ke kawasan rawatan. Rumusan bagi lapisan penjerap SMB telah dijalankan dengan merangkumi kesan penilaian nisbah surfaktan, kesan pengikat yang berlainan jenis, dan kesan nisbah penjerap ke atas pengikat, dan formulasi terbaik telah diperolehi dengan menggunakan pengikat polyvinyl acetate (PVAc) dengan nisbah penjerap kepada pengikat 0.75:1.0 (w/w). Keadaan optimum pelembutkan air keras telah diperolehi dengan penyingkiran tertinggi iaitu 66.6% (29.27mg/g) dengan menggunakan 120 mg/L air keras, kelajuan 300 rpm, pH 6.8, dan pada suhu 30°C. Lapisan penjerap SMB boleh digunakan semula untuk dua kali sahaja. Kajian berasingan bagi kalsium dan magnesium telah dijalankan dan magnesium lebih mudah disingkirkan daripada kalsium kerana adanya tapak aktif antara magnesium dan kumpulan berfungsi anionik pada permukaan SMB. Kajian menunjukkan penjerapan telah mengikut model isoterma Langmuir dan mengikut pseudo-tertib kedua. Parameter

termodinamik (ΔH° , ΔS° , dan ΔG°) yang dinalalisis telah menyifatkan keadaan penjerapan adalah eksotermik dan tindak balas adalah spontan. Dalam kajian penyahjerapan, 0.1M H_2SO_4 menunjukkan penyahjerapan tertinggi dan kitaran penyahjerapan dicapai sehingga kitaran ketiga. Berdasarkan kapasiti penyingkiran yang baik terhadap ion Ca^{2+} dan Mg^{2+} , lapisan penjerap SMB boleh digunakan dengan berkesan untuk melembutkan air keras.

INVESTIGATION ON WATER SOFTENING USING SURFACTANT MODIFIED BENTONITE ADSORBENT COATING

ABSTRACT

Adsorbent coating of bentonite modified (SMB) sodium dodecylbenzene sulfonate surfactant (SDBS) has been developed for the removal of Ca^{2+} and Mg^{2+} ions from hard water. The adsorbent was characterized using SEM, EDX, Zeta-meter and FTIR analyses. It has potential to replace the expensive conventional softening treatment techniques as well as reduce the usage of excess chemicals (chemical precipitation) by applying onto treatment area. Formulation of SMB was carried out including evaluation effect of surfactant ratio, effect of different type of binder and effect of adsorbent to binder ratio with best formulation by using PVAc binder, with adsorbent to binder ratio 0.75:1.0 ratio (w/w). The optimum condition of softening hard water was obtained with highest removal efficiency 66.6% (29.27mg/g) using 120 mg/L hard water, 300 rpm mixing speed, pH 6.8, and 30°C. SMB adsorbent coating can be reused for two times only. The separate calcium and magnesium solution were conducted and magnesium is preferable than calcium due to the availability active sites between magnesium and anionic functional group of SMB surface. The adsorption in this study was fitted with Langmuir isotherm and pseudo-second order model. Thermodynamic parameters (ΔH° , ΔS° , and ΔG°) revealed exothermic nature and reaction is spontaneous. In desorption study, 0.1M H_2SO_4 provide the highest desorption and adsorption/desorption cycle achieved up to third cycle. On the basis of good removal capacity towards Ca^{2+} and Mg^{2+} ions, SMB adsorbent coating can be effectively used for softening of hard water.

CHAPTER ONE

INTRODUCTION

1.1 Clean and Hard Water

Water is one of the important sources which contributes improvements in social well-being and growth of billions livelihoods. Clean and safe water is needed in daily life especially for drinking, cooking, bathing and cleaning task including laundering, dishwashing and some for watering plant. Clean water source are from ground water, under river flow, desalination of sea water and also surface water such as lake, river and wetland. Water will be treated by removing particulates, bacteria and various other pollutants before distributed to the residents. Natural fresh water contains small amount of dissolves solid such as calcium, magnesium, sodium, potassium, bicarbonates, sulfate, and chloride. It is safe to use directly. Piping system is generally needed to deliver water to the residential areas. However along this process, it is possible for water contamination to occur. Water with high number of undesirable contaminants such as metal salts, fluoride, chlorine, and also hardness will make it unsafe to be used.

Today's, the demand of clean water all over the world keeps increasing from time to time. This is due to the population increment and also contamination of supply. The population in Malaysia increased from 29,683,685 million (2014) of people compared in year 2013 which is 29,243,656 million (Countrymeters, 2016). Meanwhile, the total water consumption for year 2014 is about 211 litre per capita per day compared to 2013 (210 litre per capita per day) and expected to increase by year (SPAN, 2014). On the other hand, other countries such as North Africa and

Middle East have limited water resources due to the increasing population and water pollution problem (Emi *et al.* 2016.,; Heinrich Boll Foundation, 2012). This is the reason why the demand of fresh water is kept increasing. Thus, clean water is required all over the world for their daily consumption.

Water problem not only being created by industries, but also naturally such as hard water problem. The existence of hard water cations especially Ca^{2+} and Mg^{2+} in water supply have created problems. Hard water issue in countries such as Malaysia (Issa *et al.*, 1998; Fahmi *et al.*, 2011), United States (SALT Institute, 2013), England (Bristan, 2016), Ireland (Aquasafe, 2008), Netherland (Target Map, 2011) and many more create major problem to the residents as well as the relevant responsible bodies. This problem cause residents failed to obtain clean water for their daily used.

Water hardness is the measurement of the water capacity to react or bind with soap to form foam (WHO, 2011). The hardness of water is caused by variety of dissolves substances such as calcium, magnesium, aluminium, barium, iron, manganese, strontium and also zinc ions. Although other ions also contributes to the formation of hard water, but the dominant contributor are calcium and magnesium ion. Water that considered 'hard' refers to the high content of mineralized ion which is calcium and magnesium. These ions together with carbonate ion present in many sedimentary rocks especially limestone and chalk. When water passes through these areas, ions will be dissolves and form hard water. The degrees of hard water depend on the amount of dissolved calcium and magnesium ions. High concentrations of these ions increase the degree of water hardness.

1.2 Hard Water in Community

Hard water problem has become one of the main water issue in overseas countries such as United States, England, Canada, Ireland and Netherland. Some of the area in Malaysia especially Perlis also facing hard water problem. The allowable hard water for tap water supposed to have below 30mg/L. Table 1.1 shows the ranges of hard water concentration in few oversea countries and Malaysia.

Table 1.1: Hard water range in Malaysia and in oversea countries.

Country	City	Hard Water Concentration	Reference
United States	Most of the cities	>121 mg/L	(SALT Institute, 2013.; USGS Water-Quality Information, 2016)
England	Bristol, Lincoln, London, Brighton	>121 mg/L	(Bristan, 2016)
Ireland	Most of the cities except Donegai, Belfast, and Killarney.	>122 mg/L	(Aquasafe, 2008)
Netherland	Most of the Cities	>121 mg/L	(Target Map, 2011)
Malaysia	Titi Tinggi (Perlis)	530mg/L	(Issa <i>et al.</i> , 1998)
Malaysia	Timah Tasoh Dam (Perlis)	314-362mg/L	(Fahmi <i>et al.</i> , 2011)

United States have the most critical hard water problem. As shown in Figure 1.1, most of the cities in U.S have hard water more than 121 mg/L. Cities with red coloured on the map have very hard water which is more than 181 mg/L and cities with white coloured have 121 mg/L until 180mg/L hard water. The cities that have the hardest water are Indianapolis, Las Vegas, Minneapolis-St. Paul, Phoenix, San Antonio and Tampa (Homewater101, 2016).

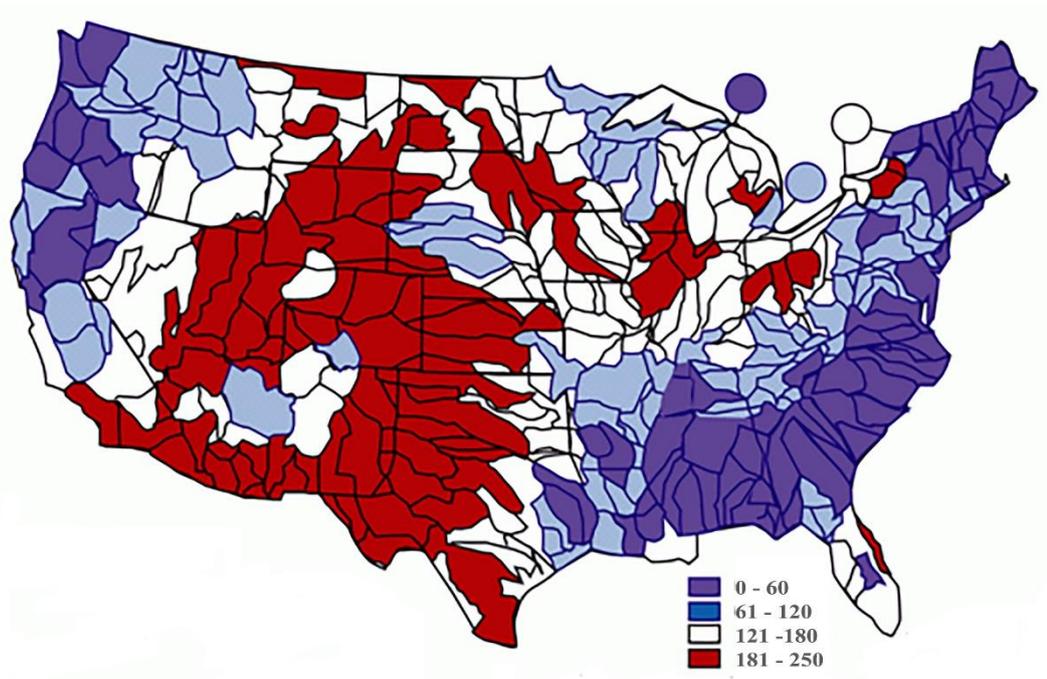


Figure 1.1: Hard water area in United States

Not only United States, England and Wales also faced the same water issue. Figure 1.2 shows the hard water in England and Wales. There are few cities that have more than 200 mg/L hard water such as in London, Southampton, Lincoln, Brighton and Bristol. Manchester, Birmingham and New Castle have moderately hard water which between 100 mg/L until 200 mg/L. Meanwhile water in Leeds considered soft.