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(54) Method for detecting the lack of a regenerating agent in a washing machine, in particular a dishwasher, and system thereof

(57) Method for detecting the lack of a regenerating agent in a household washing machine, in particular a dishwasher, comprising a water softening device (1;1A) containing resins (R), which reduce their softening capacity depending on the volume of the water being treated, said softening device (1;1A) comprising a container for said regenerating agent, a sensor (3) for detecting the state of said resins, said sensor (3) containing sample resins (RC), whose volume decreases depending on their exhaustion level, where said sensor (3) comprises a movable element capable of taking at least a first operating position for the movable element to delimit a chamber containing said sample resins (RC) and where the position of said movable element is determined by a magnetic sensor (5), the method provides at least a regeneration step of the softening capacity of said resins (R;RC), during which an aqueous solution containing the regenerating agent is conveyed to the resins (R;RC), and at least a wash step of said resins (R;RC) after said regeneration. The invention is featured by the regeneration and wash steps of said resins being followed by at least a water intake in the washing machine before activating a signal to indicate the lack of said regenerating agent.

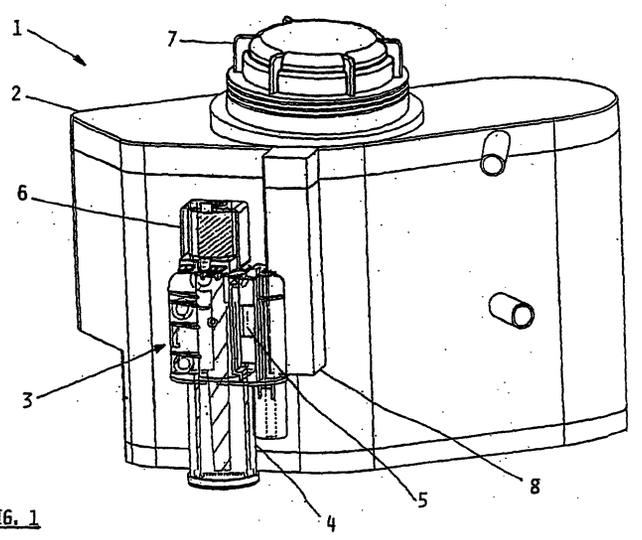


FIG. 1

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EUROPEAN SEARCH REPORT

Application Number
EP 02 00 2619

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TECHNICAL FIELDS SEARCHED (Int.Cl.7)

A47L
D06F
B01J

The present search report has been drawn up for all claims

Place of search	Date of completion of the search	Examiner
The Hague	7 July 2004	Norman, P

CATEGORY OF CITED DOCUMENTS

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