

The Secret of the Ring



It is not often we get technical here at Solent Life but every now and again something comes along that we just have to tell you about; even if we have no idea how it works or why it works, we just know it does.

In these frugal times the thought of spending around £400 (including VAT) on some strange metallic doughnut should bring about that sound we normally hear from the dodgy plumber or mechanic – you know the one – the hissed intake of breath across clenched teeth and behind pursed lips when you enquire about the price of repairs. However, as part of our campaign to Support Local Business we came across a small company based in Universal Marina on the edge of the Hamble and it was them who explained exactly what this ring thing does.

Neil Jefferies is from CC Marine and Industrial Supply. "This clever ring is called a Merus and comes from Germany and we are not even sure how it does what it does but we know it works and works well," he explained. "This ring, when clamped around your main water pipe just before the stopcock, will stop lime scale build-up; it also stops pipes rusting and keeps your water flowing freely; not only that, it will also clear existing build-ups!"

I held the lightweight ring as Neil spoke about the amazing thing; it was small and ineffective, or felt that way as it was explained that it came in all sizes from a half-inch diameter to a massive 24 inches. "If the pipes ran in a straight line it would still be effective at 12km." Neil, smiling widely, gave me a moment for that statement to sink in and what I had described as feeling ineffective suddenly took on a new meaning, but I was still struggling to understand what it could do for me, my pipework at home, my finances and the environment in general.

"I have one at home and because of the change in water – it does not soften it, it just gives that effect – we use less shampoo, my wife says her hair is softer and we no longer need salt in the dishwasher," he continued. "We have had to turn down our shower and heating thermostats by around 10 per cent. If there is just 1mm of lime scale on your element it takes a 4 per cent increase in fuel to heat the water; 4mm and that figure is around 10 per cent."

On the German company's website it states that an emersion tank with no scale on it will take just one and a half hours to heat fully but with 5mm of lime scale, which is fairly normal it seems, it will take in excess of four hours to do the same job. As Neil explained, "Although the financial savings for a home are

almost impossible to quantify it does not take a genius to figure that the savings would be worth far more than the initial outlay within a matter of months."

Of course, it is his job to sell this magic ring and to promote it, but to hear him speak of it and its accomplishments he is less of a salesman and more of an enthusiast; he literally bubbles with excitement, and also states that his wife will not let him remove it from their own home. "Also if we move house we can take it with us as there is no cutting into pipes; it is just bolted around them."

To explain better what this strange item does he showed me pictures of the effect of the Merus ring in different situations. One was from a major supermarket and it was of the fan impeller from a circulatory water pump. Such was the build-up of scale it was being destroyed and having to be replaced on a monthly basis; since fitting the ring ten weeks had passed and the next photo showed no build-up whatsoever. On steel pipes the rust will break away and not come back and it also works on copper and plastic.

A hotel in Bournemouth was in danger of being closed as the rust content from their old pipes was too high; the ring was fitted and four weeks later the high amount of rust content peaked as it was eroded and flushed away by the water before finally reducing to virtually zero content and staying there.

Apart from the obvious commercial applications, it means for domestic use lower heating bills for home and water; no build-up of scale on the kettle element and no need for filtering water first. It means less wear and repair on household appliances such as washing machines and dishwashers and this means the machines themselves will last longer.

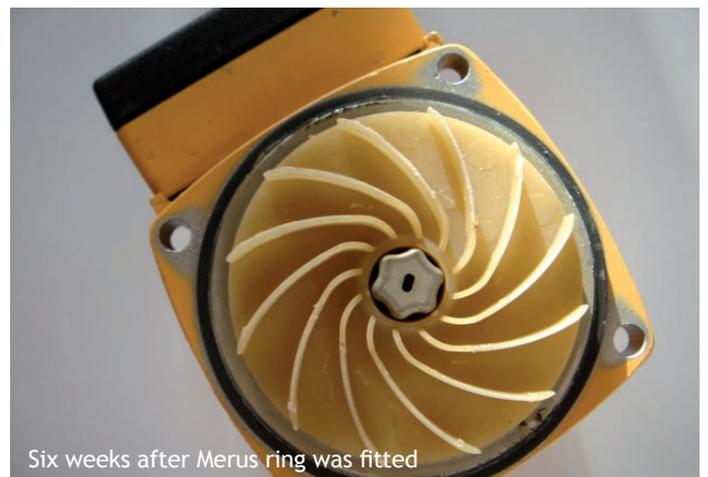
"Because of its unique nature it does need to be correctly installed," Neil said in finishing up, "but it is a simple task without cutting or ripping pipes apart and we can advise on that as well."

So a simple metal ring will save bills and save energy - very important in this age where we are all aware of the damage we are doing to the environment - and it gives the wife softer hair as well; it must be a good thing. ■

Email sales@cc-marine.co.uk for more details.



Before Merus ring was fitted



Six weeks after Merus ring was fitted