Caustic treatment can be used for removing polyelectrolyte contamination from the pretreatment on the cation resin. If such contamination occurs, the dosage and effectiveness of the pretreatment filtration should be checked. Note that the resin can become sticky if the level of contamination is high, so backwashing and air injection are recommended to help de-clump the resin.

The recommended procedure is as follows. The caustic concentration should be increased gradually to avoid excessive osmotic stress to the resin:

1. Exhaust the cation.
2. Backwash the resin for approximately 15 minutes, with air injection if necessary.
3. Pass upflow 1 bed volume 2 percent NaOH solution contact time 30 minutes.
4. Pass upflow 1 bed volume 4 percent NaOH solution.
5. Leave to soak 4-16 hours with occasional air injection to facilitate contacting of the caustic with the resin.
6. Displace/rinse the caustic downflow with min. 5 bed volumes DI water.
7. Backwash the resin and then carry out a double regeneration (same acid concentration, double injection time).
**WARNING:** Oxidizing agents such as nitric acid attack organic ion exchange resins under certain conditions. This could lead to anything from slight resin degradation to a violent exothermic reaction (explosion). Before using strong oxidizing agents, consult sources knowledgeable in handling such materials.

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