

Be Water Softener Smart

Water softeners use salt to remove minerals from hard water. But all the salt that goes into a softening unit ends up down the drain, passes through your local wastewater treatment plant and eventually returns to local waters.

Small actions can make a big difference to reducing salt use. Examine your water softener efficiency and configuration, check fixtures for unnecessary soft water connections or consider installing a blending valve.

Ensure water softener efficiency

- Use a high-efficiency softener to reduce the unit's salt use.
- Replace outdated units: Upgrade softeners older than 15 years or days-regenerating softeners.
- Track salt use: Using more than a couple of bags per year? It's probably time to upgrade.
- Configure softeners to match local water hardness. Visit madsewer.org/hardness-map to find your address.
- Assess your water softener with our self-screen tool: madsewer.org/softener-screen

Assess your water fixtures

- Ensure interior cold-water sources (like toilets) use hard water and if not, call a professional to disconnect.
- Check outdoor hoses to confirm hard water use.
- Kitchen sinks and water sources for cooking, hot or cold, should not connect to the water softener.
- Confirm there are no leaks in fixtures that use soft water.



Every little bit counts

One teaspoon of salt can permanently pollute 5 gallons of water. Once chloride is in the water, there is no way to remove it.

Find ways to reduce salt use: madsewer.org/salt-use




Consider blended softening

- Blending valves are simple, inexpensive and adjustable devices that connect to a softener.
- They divert a small portion of hard water around a softener and mix it back into softened water.
- Water is then mostly soft but has some hardness to effectively reduce salt use.
- Learn more: madsewer.org/blending-valves

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 madsewer.org/salt-use

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