



PROTECT OUR COMMUNITY AND WATERSHED BY REDUCING SALT USE

For more information on salt
reduction strategies, visit:
www.wrc.umn.edu/watersoftening

TALK TO US

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THREE WAYS TO SAVE ON SALT

3. PRACTICE SALT WISE SNOW REMOVAL
Salt used as a de-icer in the winter is often over applied. Using the right amount of salt can still keep surfaces safe while reducing salt pollution.

Salt doesn't go away.

THE SALT THAT WE PUT IN OUR WATER SOFTENERS AND ON OUR ROADS ENDS UP IN LOCAL FRESH WATER BODIES, WHERE IT CAN THREATEN AQUATIC LIFE. AND ONCE SALT IS IN FRESH WATER BODIES, IT'S EXTREMELY DIFFICULT AND EXPENSIVE TO REMOVE.

WE CAN ALL DO OUR PART TO PROTECT WATER BY TAKING STEPS TO REDUCE OUR SALT USE. IF WE'RE SUCCESSFUL, WE CAN KEEP OUR FRESH WATER HEALTHY WHILE KEEPING SEWER BILLS LOW.

- Shovel: Clear walkways and other areas before the snow turns to ice. The more snow you remove manually, the less salt you will have to use and the more effective it will be.
- Scatter: If you use salt, scatter it so there is space between the grains. A coffee mug of salt is enough to treat a 20-foot driveway or about 10 sidewalk squares.
- Switch: When pavement temperatures drop below 15 degrees, salt will not work. Switch to a different ice melt or use sand for traction.

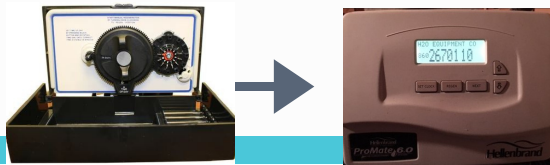


The media in a softener can become fouled over time, requiring more frequent regenerations, which equals higher costs for salt, water and sewer. There are products available to help clean the media and keep it working as efficiently as possible. Contact your plumber or softener supplier for more information.



1. REPLACE OLD WATER SOFTENERS

If you have a time-clock water softener, replace it with a demand-initiated softener if you can. This switch can significantly cut your salt use, saving you time and money while keeping water fresh. Even demand-initiated softeners can lose efficiency with age, so if your softener is older, have it evaluated by a professional and replaced if it has lost efficiency.



2. REDUCE WATER SOFTENER SALT USE

Even if you already have a demand-initiated water softener, there are still ways you can reduce salt at home.

- Make sure that your water softener is programmed to a low salt setting appropriate for the water hardness in your house. Contact a plumber or water softener service provider to evaluate and tune up your softener if necessary.
- Install high efficiency water fixtures.
- Have a plumber disconnect water that does not need to be soft, like toilets, outdoor hose bibs, and other cold water from the softener.

