

Water Softeners (Cont.)

- Soften only the water that needs to be softened. If you are building a new house, remodeling bathrooms or kitchens, replacing old plumbing or installing a new water softener, consider where your water needs to be softened. Work with your plumber to connect your water softener to only those areas that need softened water.

Places to “Feed” Softened Water Are:

- water heater
- laundry facilities
- dishwashers
- showers

Places to Bypass Using the Water Softener:

- outside water spigots for yard use
- cold tap drinking water lines
- toilets (consider low flush models)

Rebate Offer:

The Village of East Troy would like to extend a \$100 rebate, paid directly to you, for the first 10 residents to purchase and install a new, “on demand” water softener. This program will be on a “first-come-first served” basis and will **require submittal** of the plumbing permit and inspection from the Village of East Troy and the paid receipt of installation. For further information contact Jason Equitz, Director of Public Works at 262-684-5475.

Working together we can
reduce chlorides!

The Village of East Troy
2015 Energy Dr. East Troy, WI 53120

Recipient Name
Address
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Chloride (Salt) Reduction



2015 Energy Dr.

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Become Salt Conscious

Once chloride (salt) travels into our lakes, rivers, streams, and wetlands it doesn't go away, putting our aquatic life and drinking water at risk.

It only takes one teaspoon of salt to pollute 5 gallons of water to a level that is toxic for freshwater ecosystems. Over 40 lakes and streams in Wisconsin have been designated as impaired by high salt concentrations.

Chloride also alters the composition of soil, slows plant growth, and weakens the concrete, brick and stone that make up our homes, garages, bridges, and roads.

Water Softeners

Residential softening is one of the most significant sources of chlorides entering the wastewater treatment plant.

The Village of East Troy treats approximately 360,000 gallons of wastewater per day before it is discharged to Honey Creek. Wastewater treatment plants are designed to remove solids and organics commonly found in wastewater, but it CANNOT remove chlorides.

The Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (WDNR) has set limits on the discharge of chlorides from the Village's wastewater treatment plant. Chlorides are dissolved solids in the water that pass through a wastewater treatment plant. Treating for chlorides would require exotic treatment technologies that are extremely cost prohibitive; therefore, the only feasible way to reduce chlorides discharged from the treatment plant is to reduce the amount of chlorides sent down the sewer.

What needs to be done:

- Homeowners should review their softener settings. Older softeners regenerate on a schedule set by a timer. More efficient softeners (Demand-Initiated Regeneration or DIR) have flow meters or hardness sensors and regenerate only after the proper amount of water use, so they don't waste salt.
- Use settings for a reasonable level of softening, not the maximum, and have the controls calibrated periodically (21 grains of hardness for the Village of East Troy).

Deicing

Another main contributor of chlorides is winter salt used on roads, parking lots, and sidewalks. The Village has adapted best management practices for salting roads. Here are some ways you can help:

- **Pre-treat walkways** with a small amount of liquid deicer before the storm hits to prevent snow and ice from building up. Dissolve salt in warm water until salt no longer dissolves (or take some from your water softener tank) to create a brine and apply it with a watering can.
- **Clear walkways** and other areas before the snow turns to ice. The more snow that you can remove with a shovel or snowblower the better. If you can get out early, the sun can sometimes take care of the rest, no salt needed!
- **Only use deicers in critical areas** and apply the least amount necessary. One twelve-ounce container (like a coffee cup) is sufficient to salt an entire 20-foot driveway or 10 sidewalk squares! There should be at least 3 inches between salt granules.
- If there are leftover crystals still visible after salting, you can **sweep the excess up to be reused** and try to use less next time.
- At **temperatures below 15 degrees Fahrenheit**, salt becomes less effective. Consider using sand instead for traction on concrete surfaces.
- When your pet comes in from being outside, **wipe their paws** and underside. Oversalted sidewalks can irritate pet paws and can cause health concerns if ingested.

- **Wear boots or shoes with good traction** so you can walk safely to your destination.
- **Store ice melting products** in airtight containers to maintain maximum effectiveness.
- **Support feathery friends** AND protect freshwater by using birdseed for traction.
- **Use the right product.** Look at product labels for specific ingredients:
 - **Sodium chloride:** Sodium chloride is commonly known as rock salt and is the least expensive deicer product. It's also hard on the environment and not very effective at pavement temperatures less than 15°F.
 - **Calcium chloride:** This compound is effective at temperatures down to -20°F and is less harmful to vegetation.
 - **Calcium magnesium acetate:** This salt-free product works down to 20°F and is safer for vegetation and concrete surfaces.
 - **Sand:** Sand provides traction at any temperature, but it should not be mixed with deicers.

When compared with nearby states, Wisconsin salt use is much higher. If we don't alter our approach, we should expect higher maintenance costs and further damage to our environment.

Visit www.wisaltwise.com for more Salt Wise tips!