

THE ARLINGTON REPORT

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My water softener does WHAT?

What are chlorides?

Chloride is one of two elements in the chemical compound commonly known as salt. When salt dissolves in water, it separates into its separate components of Sodium and Chloride.

Where does chloride come from?

Chloride is an important part of the structure of cells. Chloride can be found in drinking water. Small amounts can also be found in a variety of household cleaning products. Chlorides can also be the result of industrial processes. A significant amount of chloride comes from water softeners with a self-regeneration cycle.

Water is considered “soft” because sodium ions do not build up on pipes and fixtures or interfere with detergents or soaps.

How does my water softener work?

Water softeners have two tanks. One is filled with small resin beads, the other is the brine tank, which holds the sodium chloride (salt) solution. As water flows through the tanks, “hard” minerals magnesium and calcium are replaced by the “soft” mineral sodium through a process called ion exchange. The water that flows out of the softener is considered “soft” because sodium doesn’t build up on pipes and fixtures or interfere with detergents and soaps.

What is the “regeneration cycle”?

When the resin tank reaches its limits on how much calcium and magnesium it can hold the water softener needs to regenerate. During the regeneration cycle a strong brine solution is flushed through the resin beads to “wash off” the calcium and magnesium. This mineral byproduct along with the brine are drained into the sewer system. New salt must be added to the brine tank regularly for this process. The regeneration cycle can be initiated by a timer, which will regenerate, or clean, the resin after a fixed period of time, regardless of water usage. A demand initiated regeneration (DIR) softener tracks either the water usage or the hardness of the water in order to determine when to complete the regeneration cycle. This process is more efficient in both water usage as well as salt consumption than the timed cycle.



My water softener does WHAT? cont.

What can I do?

1. Check to see how your softener's hardness setting is calibrated.
2. Soften only water used in the house.
3. Check the timer. If your softener is regulated by a timer you may be able to increase the time between regeneration cycles. Increase the time by one day and see how it affects your water for 1 month and adjust again if needed.
4. Set your softener to demand initiated regeneration (DIR) if able. This setting is more efficient in both salt and water use, so it will save you money!
5. If you're replacing your old softener, make sure the new one has a DIR setting. You will see substantial cost saving in both water use and salt consumption.



Sidewalk Damage

Here at City Hall we know you take just as much pride in Arlington as we do. We want to make sure that the City always looks its best, and we need your help to make that happen. We ask that you please notify the City Offices if you notice heavily damaged sidewalks and/or sidewalks that may pose a safety risk to pedestrians so they can be repaired as soon as possible.

Contact Us

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August Calendar

City Council	6:30PM	8/3
Planning & Zoning	7:00PM	8/6
EDA	5:30PM	8/10
City Council	6:30PM	8/17

For a full schedule visit www.arlingtonmn.com

be courteous

Please clean up
after your dog in
public spaces.

