

HOW A WATER SOFTENER WORKS

All water softeners use the same operating principle: **They trade the healthy minerals for sodium or potassium chloride,[salt]. This process is called ion exchange.**

The heart of a water softener is a mineral tank. It is filled with small polystyrene beads, referred to as resin. The beads carry a negative charge.

In normal operation, hard water moves into the mineral tank and the calcium and magnesium ions move to the beads replacing the salt ions.

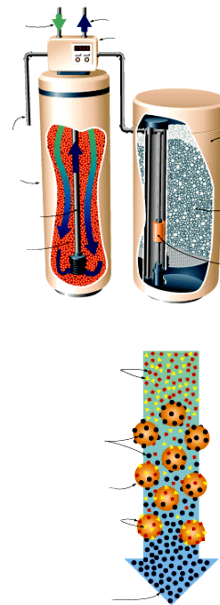
Hard water poses no health hazard. On the other hand, the salt that remains in softened water may be problem for those with high blood pressure, hypertension or on a salt-restricted diet (ask your doctor).

SALT BASED WATER SOFTENERS require constant maintenance and require hundreds of pounds of salt per year.

They are unhealthy to you, your family, and the environment. Healthful minerals such as calcium and magnesium are eliminated which are essential for a healthy body. You must also add an R.O. system just to have safe drinking water at one faucet.

High sodium levels that are generated by the system are not safe for heart patients, those with hypertension and can irritate sensitive skin. You absorbed through the skin as much sodium in a 15 minute bath as you would drinking 2 liters of water per day.

These units also dump thousands of gallons of brine solution annually, polluting waste treatment systems and waterways.



Illustrations Courtesy of Popular Mechanics.
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DISADVANTAGES OF A WATER SOFTENER

- Requires hundreds of pounds of sodium or potassium chlorides annually
- Brine discharge can pollute our water
- Introduces salt into the drinking and bathing water
- Soft water besides its' bad taste is not consider healthy to drink or bath in
- Does not remove chemicals and other contaminants
- Reverse Osmosis is often required – can breed bacteria
- Will waste thousands of gallons of water annually
- Warranty may not cover both parts and labor