



Beware of Water Treatment Scams

False claims, deceptive sales pitches, or scare tactics have been used by some water treatment companies. Every person has a right to decide what is best for themselves and their family, and you may choose to install additional water treatment to further lower the levels of contaminants of emerging concern, chlorine, and other chemicals in your water. However, you should be cautious about purchasing a water treatment system. If you are considering the purchase of a home water treatment system, please read the Minnesota Department of Health's recommendations online at

[Warning: Beware of Water Treatment Scams](#)

[\(https://www.health.state.mn.us/communities/environment/water/factsheet/beware.html\)](https://www.health.state.mn.us/communities/environment/water/factsheet/beware.html).

The Pros and Cons of Home Water Softening

When considering whether to use a water softener, contact your public water system to find out if you have hard water. Many systems treat for hardness, making water softeners unnecessary.

Water softeners are a water treatment device. They remove water hardness (dissolved calcium and magnesium). Water softeners must be installed and maintained properly to be safe and effective. Learn more at

[Home Water Softening](#)

[\(https://www.health.state.mn.us/communities/environment/water/factsheet/softening.html\)](https://www.health.state.mn.us/communities/environment/water/factsheet/softening.html).

The benefits of soft water include

- Increased efficiency for soaps and detergents.
- Reduction in mineral scaling on fixtures and in pipes.
- A potential increase in the lifespan of water heaters.

The drawbacks of soft water include

- Operating and maintenance costs.
- More sodium. People on low-sodium diets should consult a doctor if they plan to regularly consume softened water.

The production of salt brine as a byproduct. This can have negative effects at wastewater treatment plants and on ecosystems. Reduce the amount of salt brine used or install a salt-free system.