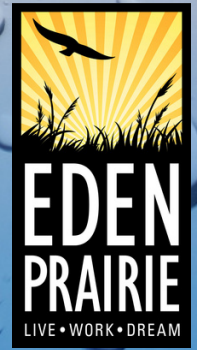


WATER SOFTENERS and the Environment



Eden Prairie's water supply originates deep underground, in the Jordan-Prairie du Chien aquifer group, which provides drinking water to several metro-area cities. During the water treatment process, most cities remove only iron and manganese, leaving water softening up to individual property owners.



Eden Prairie Water Treatment Plant

Our Water Treatment Plant includes a lime-softening and filtration process, which reduces water hardness to 5 grains of hardness, without the need for salt. This is below the level of hardness recommended by the



Minnesota Department of Health for drinking water.

City water is soft enough for bathing, washing, cooking and cleaning, while protecting your pipes from mineral build-up.

RESOURCES

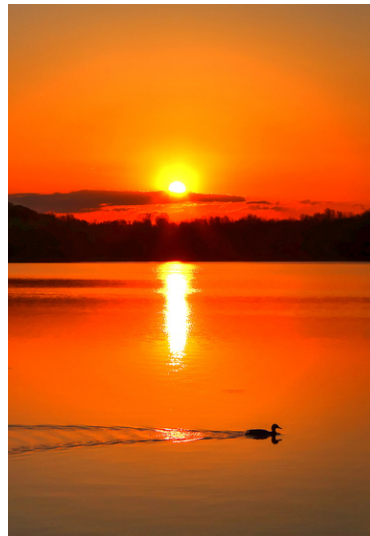
Eden Prairie Utilities Division
952-949-8530

MN Department of Health
healthstate.mn.us

U of M Water Resources Center
wrc.umn.edu

MN Pollution Control Agency
pca.state.mn.us/water/chloride-salts

Let's Keep it Clean
cleanwatermn.org



Do I Need a Water Softener?

- Remove or upgrade your water softening system to a high-efficiency unit. A water softening system is not required.
- Evaluate the efficiency and effectiveness of your water softening system.
 - Conduct regular maintenance to ensure it is performing optimally.

Effects of Water Softener Salt

- Local wastewater treatment plants are not capable of removing salt, most of the salt passes directly into the Minnesota River.
- Tends to be corrosive to pipes, increasing release of metals such as lead into the water.
- Accumulates in the environment, it is persistent and not biodegradable, and can remain for decades.
- Can be toxic to aquatic life, from fish to plants, even in low concentrations. Reproduction and growth rates can decrease, increasing species mortality.
- Depletes oxygen in freshwater which impacts fish and other aquatic organisms that need oxygen to survive.
- Can migrate into groundwater and drinking water.

Facts about Water Softener Systems

- Most softeners are ion-exchange systems. Hardness ions (calcium and magnesium) are exchanged for salt (sodium or potassium chlorides).
- Adding salt recharges the system.
- Excess materials (brine water) are rinsed down into the sanitary sewer during the recharging process.