

Water Softening/Conditioning Options for Residential Users

There are many options for residential water softening/conditioning. General features of water treatment options are described below but will vary. Professionals in the water conditioning industry can provide more information.



Find out more about salt and water softening? Check out our website www.wrc.umn.edu/watersoftening.



	SINGLE TANK SOFTENER	TWIN TANK SOFTENER	COUNTER CURRENT SOFTENER	DEMAND-BASED REGENERATION CONTROLLER	HARDNESS SENSOR EQUIPPED	EXCHANGE PROGRAM	REVERSE OSMOSIS	NON-SALT CONDITIONER
COST	\$	\$\$	\$\$	\$\$	\$\$	\$ + rental \$	\$-\$\$\$	\$-\$\$\$
SALT USE								
WATER TREATMENT	Softens water	Softens water	Softens water	Softens water	Softens water	Softens water	Softens water and removes other contaminants	May limit scale build-up Most - no hardness removal
MAINTENANCE	Refill salt. Clean brine tank every 5-10 years Check settings 1/yr.	Refill salt. Clean brine tank every 5-10 years Check settings 1/yr.	Refill salt. Clean brine tank every 5-10 years Check settings 1/yr.	Refill salt. Clean brine tank every 5-10 years Check settings 1/yr.	Refill salt. Clean brine tank every 5-10 years Check settings 1/yr.	Schedule exchange of resin tanks	Replace membrane/filters when needed depending on use	Variable
WATER USE								Variable
NOTES				Most new softeners are demand-based		Not available in many areas	Whole house RO not common	Several options, many not well proven
			\$ up to \$1500	\$\$ \$1500 - \$2500	\$\$\$ \$2500 - \$5000			