

Should I soften hot water only?

Choose an efficient way to deal with your home's hard water

Softening hot water only is a new idea for many homeowners, although commercial and rental buildings have done it for a long time. There are pros and cons to changing how we soften water; read this info sheet to learn more. When you're ready to soften hot water only, visit the Region's website to learn about our \$50 rebate.

Benefits to you:

- Save money: Your softener uses less water and salt
- Save time: fewer heavy bags of salt to carry
- Less wear and tear on your water softener
- Reduce chloride pollution in our community
- Unsalted, tasty drinking water from any cold faucet in the house

Each year, a home of three could save:



108 kgs
of salt

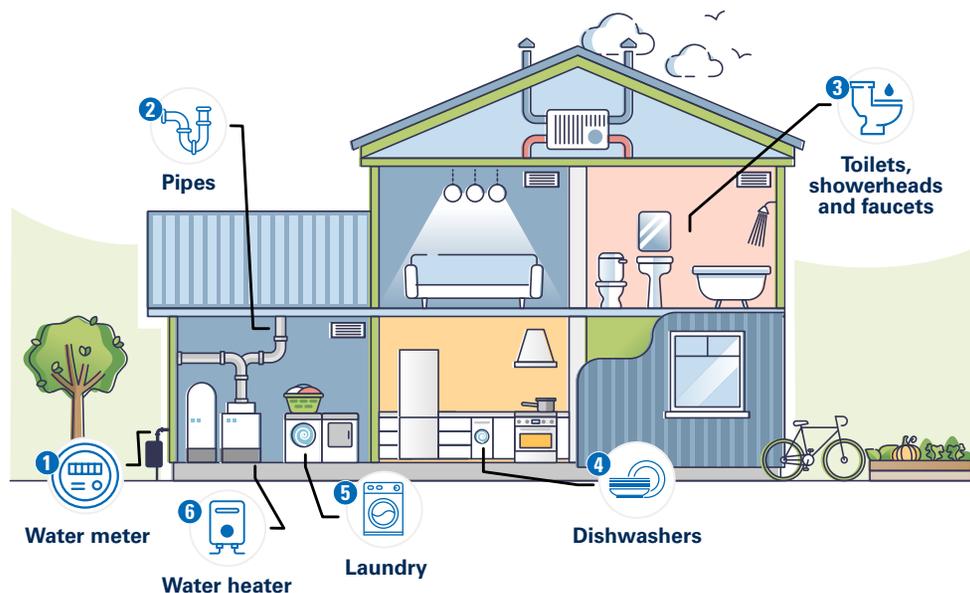


8,800 L
of water



\$100
of cost

Here are pros and cons to consider...



1. Water meter: Seven per cent of an average home's water use comes from the water softener. You can save about three quarters of that by softening hot only.

2. Pipes: Copper and plastic pipes don't develop mineral scale the way older materials did. Hot water scales faster than cold so you are protected against the biggest risk.

3. Toilets, showerheads and faucets: You may see more scaling over time. Can be cleaned with vinegar or other products.

4. Dishwashers: These are usually connected to hot water, so will use fully softened water. Check your home's plumbing.

5. Laundry: If you wash warm or hot, the water is still at least partially softened. With hard water, you might notice duller colours or more soap needed. The type of soap you use can help.

6. Water heater: Softened water goes into the heater, so it's protected against scaling. You still have this key benefit of softening water.

\$50
plumbing rebate!

Are you ready to re-think softening?
Is softening hot water only the right choice for your home?

Visit our website to learn how to claim your \$50 rebate.

Our website has a list of local plumbers and water softener dealers who are willing to help!



Region of Waterloo

Learn more at www.regionofwaterloo.ca/conservation
or by calling 519-575-4400, Deaf and hard of hearing (TTY): 519-575-4608

Did you know?

Softeners flush salty backwash water down the drain. This ends up in our waterways, and it's adding up. Salt, or chloride pollution, harms plants and animals. It can even affect our water's taste.



15,000 tonnes

of salt added to Waterloo Region waterways each year.



1.5 billion litres

of water flushed each year by softeners in our homes.