USA TODAY BLOG

WHAT ARE THE BENEFITS OF HAVING A WATER SOFTENER SYSTEM?



Most of us already know the importance of water filtration. Nobody wants to drink water that's contaminated with lead, plastic, and other substances.

Water filtration – or clean drinking water at the very least – are a necessity for every home. But what about water softeners?

Water softening is the filtering and removal of magnesium, calcium, and other metals. It's the process in which hard water turns to soft water.

There are several benefits to having a water softener system, plus these systems actually make great investments.

For the sake of your health and your home, read on to learn more about the benefits of having soft water.

The Deal with Hard Water

Contaminants like lead and plastic easily end up in tap water all over the country. At the same rate, it's natural for minerals to also end up in our water.

The difference is that these minerals are beneficial to us and pose no harm if we consume them.

After all, people drink natural mineral water all the time. Moreover, people pay to drink water that has added minerals to them.

Water that comes from lakes and rivers almost always have mineral traces in them. It's common for magnesium, calcium, and zinc to wind up in our tap water, especially if we live near bodies of water.

Sometimes, these minerals can occur in our water at high levels, which can wreak havoc on our homes.

It's an accumulation of calcium and magnesium carbonates that leads to buildup. This buildup eventually forms into chalk and limestone. If hard water goes untreated, this limestone and chalk can form well outside your pipes.

How Does a Water Softener System Work?

Salt-based and salt-free softening systems attach to a home's water supply.

Water softeners traditionally treat hard water by adding sodium to it. Salt reduces the buildup of scale, otherwise known as the calcium deposits. The negative charge of the sodium ion attracts and removes calcium and magnesium ions.

Water Softeners Preserve Your Plumbing System

Hard water left untreated won't just accumulate in your shower or on your hot water heater. Eventually, it will clog up the pipes in your home, and this can lead to bigger problems down the line.

As your pipes clog up, the flow of your water will slow down. The clogs can also cause wear-and-tear or permanent damage to your pipes. This occurs as the mineral deposits calcify and become harder to remove over time.

With improved water flow, you'll use less water overall. This will not only translate into smaller utility bills. You'll also use less heat and less energy overall and reduce your carbon footprint.

Not to mention, you'll have cleaner and better tasting drinking water. You'll also greatly reduce the chances of having to fix clogged or damaged pipes.

All in all, a water softener system can help you take better care of your home's plumbing system and fixtures. You'll prevent future problems from occurring all while saving money every month.

They'll Leave Your Skin and Hair Softer Than Ever

As we just mentioned, the buildup of hard water will slow down your plumbing's water flow.

When you shower, you'll not only notice dull water pressure. It's when you get after the shower that you can actually feel the effects of hard water.

After showering in hard water, your hair can have traces of calcium and magnesium on it. This occurrence will make your hair feel dry and brittle. It can also make the color of your hair look duller or even frizzier.

Your skin can also feel dry after showering or bathing in hard water. It may even become itchy and irritated. This occurs because the minerals deplete its natural oils.

A water softener system will help to preserve your body and hair's natural oils, leaving your skin smooth.

Spend Less Time Cleaning

As scale builds up over time, it leaves an accumulation of white crust and hard water stains.

This accumulation can be hard to remove and may require heavy-duty scrubbing.

With a water softener system, you'll spend less time cleaning. It will also reduce the need to use harsh cleaning chemicals to remove the scale.

In severe cases, scale buildup can permanently damage your appliances and plumbing fixtures. You could wind up spending hundreds of dollars to replace your faucets or dishwasher!

Have Cleaner Clothes and Dishes

Your appliances will work better as a water softener system removes scale from the pipes.

Hard water can leave traces of minerals on your clothes and dishes. These traces can become trapped in your clothes and cause their colors to fade as a result. Hard water can also cause your dishes and silver wear to fade, as well.

As a water softener system improves the flow of water, your appliances will be able to clean more efficiently. You'll also use less soap in the long run.

Choosing a Water Treatment Company

When you call, be wary of any company that immediately wants to install a water softener system. They should first ask to test your home's water first.

This way, they'll be able to see what's in (or not in) your water and tailor a treatment system specific to your needs.

Don't be afraid to ask for references! A trustworthy and reliable company should have a list of satisfied customers at their finger tips.