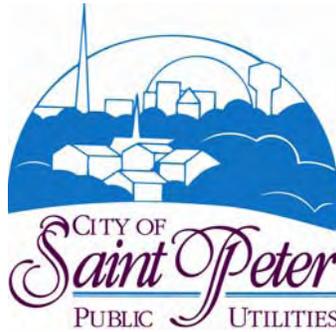


DON'T FORGET TO RESET YOUR SOFTENER



The new Broadway Water Plant began operation on March 30, 2011. The new facility produces water hardness that is noticeably lower than the previous water. The water hardness has decreased from 24 grains per gallon to 5 grains per gallon, a reduction of 80%. Resetting water softeners to the appropriate hardness will save on salt consumption and other costs to soften the water. Resetting the water softener will also mean less salt ends up in the wastewater that flows to the City's Wastewater Treatment Facility and, eventually, less salt into the Minnesota River.

Some water softeners automatically track water quantity usage and water hardness and will self-adjust without the homeowner having to do a thing. But many models require a manual adjustment based on water hardness and the amount of water used. The necessary settings depend not just on water hardness, but also on the brand and model of water softener equipment and how much water is being used. Homeowners can realize a significant savings by changing the softener settings to match the water quality.

Most owner manuals include a table of recommended settings and it's best to start there. For those without an owners manual contacting the manufacturer's technical service representative is a good way to get the information you need. If you have a rental unit it is best to call the supplier and ask them to reset the softener unit to match the water quality.

Here is information needed to correctly set the softener:

- The number of people in the household.
- The average daily water usage per person (in gallons) - in Saint Peter this usage is about 75 gallons per person per day.
- The total hardness of the water supply measured in grains per gallon (5 gpg) or in milligrams per liter (85 mg/l) of water.
- The model and operating properties of the individual water softener or water conditioner.

If you still need assistance please call the Public Works Department at 934-0670 for more information and options.