

Chloride (Salt) Reduction Information

The Village of Blue Mounds is continuing its effort to reduce chlorides at the Wastewater Treatment Plant. The biggest culprit is water softeners and YOU can help! There are three things you need to know:

1. The DNR imposes a limit to the chloride level at the Wastewater Treatment Plant.
2. Working together we can avoid DNR fines and/or expensive options at the Treatment Plant.
3. We can all SAVE money.

Chlorides discharged from water softeners end up at the Wastewater Treatment Plant. The DNR establishes groundwater quality standards and we are working to keep our monthly results below our limit. Most groundwater has some degree of hardness. Basic hardness is produced by the presence of calcium and magnesium dissolved in water. If these minerals are not removed, they may build up as scale on pipes and fixtures, coat water heater elements, and may cause increased detergent usage. High levels can also make water taste unpleasant. Chlorides used to treat this hardness are not absorbed or degraded as they move through the ground, so we cannot rely on a natural means of reduction. Everyone's cooperation is needed to reduce chlorides.

What needs to be done:

- Homeowners need to review their water softener setting. Older and less expensive softeners regenerate on a schedule set by a timer. Village Ordinance requires "on-demand" softeners.
- Use settings for a reasonable level of softening, not the maximum, and have the controls calibrated periodically. (**23 grains of water hardness for the Village of Blue Mounds**)
- Do not over-treat sidewalks when deicing.

We will all benefit with:

- Saving money on softener salt
- Saving money on energy
- Saving money by avoiding significant State fines
- Saving money by avoiding costly changes to our Wastewater Treatment Plant
- Saving the quality of our water

If you are considering adding a water softener or replacing an existing one, an "on-demand" model is recommended.

For further information, contact our Public Works Director Dan Foster at 576-0036.

Only our customers can make the reduction in chlorides happen!