

# Water Softening & Conditioning Options

## A Decision Guide for Salinity Reduction

This guide is designed to help homeowners, property managers, and business owners choose water treatment systems that minimize salt discharge, protect infrastructure, and support a sustainable community.



### Residential Water Softening Options

System Type	Salt Use	Softens Water	Reduces Scale	Brine Discharge	Pros	Best For
High-Efficiency Salt-Based Softeners	Low	Yes	Yes	Yes	Uses less salt/water; demand-initiated regen	Homes needing soft water with less impact
Potassium Chloride Softeners	Potassium Only	Yes	Yes	Yes (less harmful)	Sodium-free alternative to salt	Homes with health/environmental concerns
TAC/NAC Salt-Free Conditioners	None	No	Yes	No	Maintenance-free; no brine; environmentally safe	Homes with moderate hardness
Magnetic/Electronic Conditioners	None	No	Variable	No	Easy install; no salt or plumbing impact	Small households; apartments
Whole-House Filters with Scale Control	None	No	Yes	No	Improves water quality; protects pipes/appliances	Homes not needing full softening



### Commercial & Hospitality Water Conditioning Options

System Type	Salt Use	Scale Control	Softening	Brine Discharge	Pros	Best For
Centralized TAC/NAC Salt-Free Systems	None	Excellent	No	No	Environmentally friendly; low maintenance	Hotels, resorts, lodges, large users
High-Efficiency Commercial Softeners	Reduced	Yes	Yes	Yes	Advanced controls; salt-saving regeneration settings	Existing facilities needing soft water
Point-of-Use Softeners & RO Systems	Variable	Targeted	Targeted	Yes (localized)	Only softens water where truly needed	Kitchens, boilers, dishwashers, laundry rooms
Water Use & Softener Audits	None	N/A	N/A	N/A	Identifies where softening is actually needed	All commercial facilities



### Decision Guide: What's Right for You?

Your Situation	Recommended Action
You have hard water but care about salt discharge	Upgrade to a high-efficiency softener or TAC salt-free system
You're building/remodeling a commercial property	Install a centralized TAC/NAC system or design with point-of-use softening only
You're not sure if you even need softening	Start with a professional water quality and use audit
You want soft water without sodium	Use potassium chloride in your existing softener
You're in a low to moderate hardness area	Consider a whole-house filtration system with scale control



### Take Action

- Test your water to determine your actual softening needs.
- If softening appears to be warranted, consider installing it only on your hot water feed piping.
- Contact your plumber or installer to evaluate non-salt or high-efficiency options
- Share this guide with others in your community
- Help us reduce salt in the sewer system and avoid costly future upgrades!