



RE: Water Softener Settings for New Homes

Dear

Congratulations on your new home in Merrimac! As you're settling into your new place, we wanted to let you know about a **simple thing you can do** to help keep our Village in good standing with Wisconsin DNR.

The Village is undertaking an effort to **reduce the amount of salt** that gets to our wastewater treatment plant (WWTP). This is because we recently received a notification from DNR that the water we discharge from our WWTP is showing signs of excessive Chlorides. This makes us exceed our DNR-determined limit, which is always a serious matter. For Villages like ours, the primary source of salt to the WWTP is residential water softeners. Having the incorrect settings on water softeners is the most likely culprit. Believe it or not, **our WWTP receives about 120 pounds of salt every day.**

Based on the "hardness" of our well water, to be most "salt efficient" (and cost effective), ideally, your softener should be set for **18 grains** and use the **Salt Efficiency** setting. Don't worry, *your water will still be completely softened* at most efficient salt setting. Your softener will just regenerate more frequently and will use less salt, which is the most cost effective approach for all our customers.

On the newer electronic models of softener control valves, it's generally *very easy* to reset the grains of hardness, with just a few clicks on the control pad. Resetting the Salt Efficiency is slightly more involved. Check your owner's manual, or ask your plumber or softener installer how to adjust these settings.

**Your participation is totally voluntary.** If you'd like to find out more about how your softener is set, I hope you'll consider reaching out to your plumber or water treatment service. While Village Staff wouldn't perform the adjustments on your softener, we'd be able to speak with you to help you understand how it is set. Thank you for your assistance and understanding of the need to address this issue.

Sincerely,

Margaret Budde  
Village Assistant

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VILLAGE OF MERRIMAC

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