



# Hints For Homeowners



## Make Household Chores Easier With Softened Water

(NAPSA)—If you find yourself spending too much time on household chores and not enough time with your family, there's a simple solution that can make your life easier. The answer is to use softened water.

Dreary tasks such as washing dishes, doing laundry and cleaning up the bathroom and kitchen are easier and less time-consuming with softened water—and softened water brings added benefits such as softer skin and shinier hair.

Hard water forms when naturally occurring minerals enter water sources. It is also very common in this country. Eighty-five percent of the U.S. geography has hard water, according to the U.S. Geological Survey. As our population grows and becomes more diverse, many homeowners may be feeling the effects of hard water without even realizing it.

The naturally occurring minerals in "hard" water make it difficult for soaps, detergents and shampoos to lather, which in turn forces you to scrub harder when cleaning your home. In fact, the term "hard water" originally referred to water that was difficult or hard to work with.

Installing a water softener in your home can greatly reduce the natural hard minerals found in water. Inside the water softener, salt pellets are used to charge thousands of tiny resin beads with sodium ions. As hard water moves over the resin beads, the minerals are replaced with sodium ions, creating soft water.

While the joys of soft water greatly outweigh the mainte-

### Household Tips: Using Soft Water To Simplify Daily Life

Make clothes last longer. Clothes tend to wear out 15 percent faster when washed in hard water. Softened water is gentler on your clothing.

Keep kitchenware looking new. Hard water can create unsightly film buildup on dishes and glassware. Softened water keeps kitchenware sparkling like new.

Clean up with ease. Hard water can create hard filmy soap rings on bathtubs and sinks. Softened water helps keep fixtures clean and shiny.


Ensure that appliances last longer. The American Water Works Association has found that washing machines used with hard water can wear out up to 30 percent faster than machines used with soft water. Softened water reduces wear and tear on your washer.

Use less soap, detergent and shampoo. Hard water inhibits soaps and shampoos from lathering, so you may be using more soap and shampoo than necessary. Save money by using soft water, which requires less soap to get things clean.

Enjoy softer skin. When you bathe or shower in hard water, mineral deposits are left behind on your body, which may dry out your skin. These minerals are removed from softened water to make your skin feel soft and smooth.

Keep hair shiny and clean. Hard water mineral deposits can also leave your hair looking dull, while shampooing in softened water can reveal your hair's natural shine.

Maintain your water-softening unit. Once your water softener is installed, check it monthly and keep the salt level at least half full at all times using a high-quality salt product. For example, Diamond Crystal® water-softening salt is packaged in convenient-to-carry, two-handled bags and includes easy instructions in English and Spanish.



nance of a water softener, one task most people dread is changing the softener pellets as instructed by the manufacturer. Carrying bags of salt to the water softener was a chore that hadn't seen much improvement in a long, long time—until now. Diamond Crystal® water-softening salt now comes in a two-handled bag. When compared to

other brands' single rigid handle, the two-handled bag makes it easier and more comfortable to change the salt. Simple instructions are printed in English and Spanish, and the product works in any water softener.

After all, wouldn't you rather spend more time and energy on family fun than tiresome household tasks?