

Is your water softener polluting the environment?

The Village of Sussex Wastewater Utility is trying to reduce the amount of chlorides entering into the wastewater treatment plant, and ultimately Sussex Creek. The primary salt used in home water softeners is sodium chloride, which breaks down into sodium and chloride. These elements pass through the wastewater treatment plant and ultimately end up in lakes, rivers, streams and the groundwater, where it can have toxic effects for aquatic plants and animals.

To reduce chlorides, soften only the water that needs to be softened. Bypass using softened water for outside water spigots for yard use, and cold tap drinking water lines. Where possible, adjust your softener to minimize salt usage during regeneration cycles. Also, switch from a timer to a demand initiated regeneration controller. By measuring actual demand of the water softener, DIR controls are much more efficient in determining when the softener needs to regenerate.

Contact a qualified water softener representative to see what is appropriate for your particular needs.

Please feel free to contact the Sussex WWTP staff at 262-246-5184 to help answer any questions you may have.