

Understanding Water Hardness

Having a water softener would benefit most people in the United States. Hardness in the water is one of the most common water problems in America. A Recent U.S. geological survey study shows that hard water is found in 85% of the country. Plumbing maintenance, equipment and replacement cost could save consumers and businesses across the country millions of dollars a year just by having a softener for their home or office.

What Is Hard Water?

In your home, the water is either “soft” or “hard” depending on the amount of minerals that are in it. Water that has more than a single grain of magnesium or calcium is considered to be hard.

A grain equals a unit weight of 1/7000th of a pound. An easier way to understand it would be an aspirin approximately weighs 5 grains per tablet. If the water inside your home has a hardness level of 10 grains per gallon of water then it would be equal to the weight of 2 aspirin tablets that has been dissolved in your water.

An average family of 4 with 7 grains of water hardness per gallon would have the equivalent of 146 lbs of rock in their water supply annually. These tiny rocks lodge in your cloths, shower door, and hair, on your skin and in all the plumbing in your home not to mention your appliances like your hot water heater, dishwasher, washing machine and icemaker.

When it rains, the water is soft when it falls from the sky. As it travels through rock and soil it picks up particles of calcium, magnesium, iron, lead and other minerals. Depending on the type of water you have and levels of containments, water softness will vary across the country. Still, in most places in the United States the water is relatively hard.

