# Pass the salt, please.

Did you know that *one teaspoon of salt pollutes 5 gallons of water* FOREVER? When salt (i.e. chloride) enters bodies of water, there is no easy way to remove it. Salt use has been on the rise since the 1950s. Too much salt can lead to environmental consequences and costly remediation.

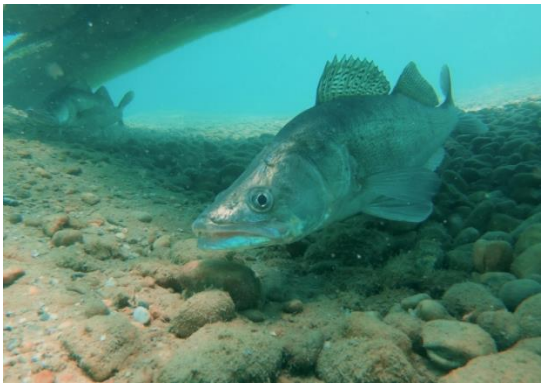
**Salt/chloride is toxic to aquatic life. Help protect our environment by practicing smart salting in your water softener.**

### Water softeners add salt to our lakes.

Water softeners, which are used to reduce the hardness of water and help prevent mineral deposits on pipes, appliances, and glassware, also add salt to our water. Wastewater treatment plants are not designed to remove salt from water, meaning all that salt goes into our lakes and streams and contributes to chloride pollution.

Take the following actions to reduce the impact of water softeners:

- **Check your softener to determine if a replacement is needed.**
- Optimize the settings on your water softener or upgrade to a high efficiency water softener. **Make sure you're using the minimum amount of salt to soften your water.** Only soften to 5 grains per gallon — over-softening wastes salt and can corrode pipes. Check your unit's settings and adjust if they're too high. Only soften water that needs it - don't soften water to outside spigots or cold-water taps. Take steps to conserve water.



## Action needed:

**You can help protect our lakes by using only as much salt as needed to soften the water used in your home.**

Consider replacing your water softener if it is:

- more than 15 years old,
- having issues, due for replacement, you are using more salt than expected, or
- your current softener is not a high-efficiency (HE) model. High-efficiency (HE) softeners have an efficiency of at least 4000 grains per pound salt – higher efficiency is better.

**How much salt is too much?**

- An average household uses 20 to 80 pounds salt/month.
- The type of water softener, as well as the hardness of your water, will impact the amount of salt you use.

**Upgrading to a High-Efficiency water softener can reduce your salt usage by more than 50%.**

- Check with a water softener professional to learn more about High-Efficiency water softeners and how you can reduce the salt you discharge to the sewer.
- **ALASD must reduce its salt discharge by more than 50%.**
- **Go to www.alasdistrict.org/rebates/ to learn more and apply for a rebate.**

ALASD WATER RECLAMATION FACILITY

Contact Us:
320-762-1135
www.alasdistrict.org

ENVIRONMENT AND NATURAL RESOURCES TRUST FUND