



Chloride Reduction Rebate Program

ALASD is required to investigate chloride sources and make reductions in the amount of chloride discharged to the sewer system. **Most of the salt being discharged** to Lake Winona is from water softeners used in homes. ALASD is offering rebates to homeowners who significantly reduce or eliminate salt discharges to the sewer system. Questions can be emailed to info@alasdistrict.org or call ALASD at 320.762.1135.

The following rebates will be offered to ALASD users:

\$500 Rebate for replacement of softener to **ALASD approved high efficiency (HE)** demand softener. Minimum HE Softener requirements: NSF/ANSI standard 44 with minimum efficiency of 4000 grains/lb. regenerated salt.

Up to \$2000 Rebate to remove softener permanently and install salt-less conditioner* (see note below regarding system performance expectations). Rebate requires signed agreement and permanent removal of softener to eliminate brine discharge to sewer and allow future inspection by ALASD.

Up to \$2000 Rebate for private well user outside of City of Alexandria to install a brine disposal system. Rebate requires signed agreement to permanently eliminate brine discharge to sewer and allow future inspection by ALASD to determine continued compliance. Installation must be completed by certified system installer. Minimum requirements for brine disposal systems are forthcoming and will be provided on the ALASD website.

Future Rebate Programs will be considered for Commercial/Industrial Users.

* NOTE: Salt-less conditions may have lesser performance when compared to softened water. Water with greater than 1 ppm iron and hardness greater than 20 grains may not be suitable. Fully discuss system performance expectations with your installer/plumber before proceeding with this option.

ALASD Rebate program details and requirements are subject to change based on program evaluation.

Rebates are subject to ALASD budget limitations and availability. When budgeted funds are depleted, notification will be provided on www.alasdistrict.org and rebates will no longer be available.



Funding for this project was provided by the Minnesota Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund as recommended by the Legislative-Citizen Commission on Minnesota Resources (LCCMR).



ALASD Chloride Reduction Rebate Application

All information must be provided to be eligible:

Applicant Name: _____

Mailing Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Phone: _____ E-mail: _____

System Installation Address or check box if same as above

Installation Address: _____ City: _____ State: MN Zip: _____

Utility Bill Account # _____

Property Type: Owner Occupied ___ Rental ___ What year is existing(old) Softener _____

Is existing (old) softener: time based or on demand (circle one)?

Type of Product Purchased and Installed: _____

Date of Purchase: __/__/____ Make: _____ Model: _____

Date of Installation: _____ Installed by: _____

Brine Disposal System: If you are installing a Brine Disposal System (not a water softener) please use the Brine Disposal System Application.

Please attach original or copy of purchase receipt indicating type/model of system installed and photograph of the installation. Attachment shall also include information indicating compliance NSF/ANSI standard 44 and minimum efficiency of 4000 grains/lb.

Customer Agreement: My signature indicates that the information provided is true, I have read and understood the rebate program guidelines, and that I comply with the rebate program requirements. In addition, I agree I will not disconnect or modify this installation unless the modification is replacement with same or more efficient system (i.e. efficient system refers to reduction/elimination of chloride discharge to the sewer). Furthermore, I will allow a representative of ALASD to inspect the installation in my home when requested to ensure compliance.

Signature: _____ Date: _____

Rebates will be denied for the following reasons: missing receipts, no proof of payment, inadequate proof of installation, not compliant with ALASD requirements/inspection.

Upon compliance with program requirements and submissions, a rebate will be distributed if funding is available.

THE ALASD REBATE PROGRAM WILL CONTINUE ONLY WHILE BUDGETED FUNDS ARE AVAILABLE. When budgeted funds are depleted, notification will be provided on www.alasdistrct.org. You may also call ALASD to check on status of rebate funding at 320-762-1135.



Send questions to info@alasdistrct.org

Applications to:

Chloride Reduction Rebate
Alexandria Lake Area Sanitary District
2201 Nevada ST SW
Alexandria MN 56308

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Salt Management Fact Sheet

Lake Winona is listed as impaired by the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MPCA) due to excess phosphorus as well as chloride. Both negatively impact aquatic life. ALASD has been successful in reducing the total phosphorus loading to Lake Winona and the chain of lakes over the past 40 years and continues to reduce the total phosphorus concentrations entering area lakes. However, in addition to phosphorus, **we are now faced with finding a solution to reduce chloride (salt) loading as well.**

There are multiple chloride sources including road salt that can enter our area lakes. **However, most of the salt being discharged to Lake Winona is from water softeners used in homes.**

6,000,000 pounds or 3000 tons of salt is discharged annually to the ALASD sewer system and ends up in area lakes.

Home Water Softener Background

Area groundwater has high levels of calcium and magnesium that are commonly treated/removed through "softening" to prevent lime scale buildup in appliances, pipes, and water fixtures. Home water softeners use sodium chloride (NaCl) in a softening process that replaces calcium and magnesium ions with sodium, while the chloride ions (i.e. salt) are discharged as brine/backwash to the sewer system and eventually end up at the wastewater treatment facility (WWTF) and are discharged into Lake Winona and eventually to the chain of lakes.

MPCA requires salt reductions to meet future chloride limits:

The MPCA recommends installing centralized softening technology at municipal water treatment plants thereby removing the need for home softeners. **ALP Utilities is evaluating centralized softening for the City of Alexandria residents.** However, this alone will not attain the target effluent chloride discharge concentrations at the WWTF since **over half of ALASD customers use private well water with home softeners.** Costs associated with providing centralized water supply and distribution system to the township areas is not economically feasible based on affordability standards according to the Minnesota Public Facilities Authority. In addition, treatment for chloride at the end of the WWTF is not economically feasible.

You can help reduce the amount of the salt discharge:

- Installing a high-efficiency water softener. Ensure settings are correct for your source water!
- Removing your softener and installing a salt-less water conditioner/treatment system.
- Installing a subsurface soil disposal system for your softener backwash/brine discharge.

ALASD implemented a pilot program in 2022 for homeowners to reduce or eliminate salt discharge to the sewer. ALASD is now continuing this program into future years with support from the ENRTF. For more information, please visit our website: www.alasdistrct.org



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