

**2026**  
**ALASD UPDATE**



Important Notice: Beginning January 1, 2026, the monthly wastewater user charge will increase to \$47.54, plus a new \$4.00 Water Reclamation Facility (WRF) Fee, for a total monthly charge of \$51.54. The WRF Fee helps fund an \$80 million upgrade to the ALASD Water Reclamation Facility, financed through a combination of user rates, low-interest state funded loans, and requests for special legislative appropriations. Funding includes a \$12 million Point Source Implementation Grant (PSIG) from the Minnesota Public Facilities Authority (MPFA). These investments modernize aging infrastructure at the current WRF and will meet regulatory requirements, protect local waterways, and ensure reliable wastewater service for decades to come. Questions? Visit [www.alasd.org](http://www.alasd.org) or call 320-762-1135.



**Water Softener Rebates**

ALASD is offering a \$500 Water Softener Rebate to our customers that upgrade their old time-based water softeners. ALASD, with the help of the Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund grant, has funded over 1,000 rebates, totaling >\$700,000. Help ALASD reduce the salt (and save money!); get a new High-Efficiency Water Softener!

## 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.

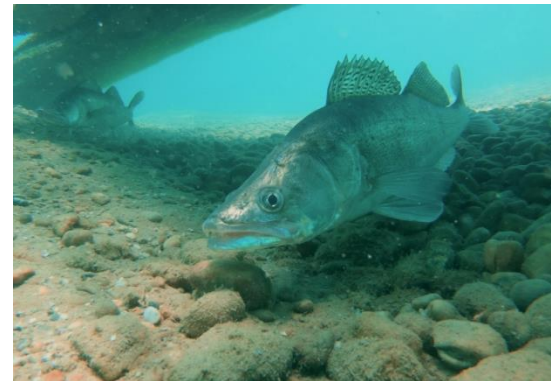
**Salt/chloride is toxic to aquatic life. Help protect our environment by practicing smart salting in your water softener.**

### 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.alasdistrct.org/rebates/](http://www.alasdistrct.org/rebates/) to learn more and apply for a rebate.



Contact Us:  
320-762-1135  
[www.alasdistrct.org](http://www.alasdistrct.org)

