



Worthington Public Utilities Water Softener Commercial Rebate Program funded through a Minnesota Pollution Control Agency Grant

BACKGROUND:

The City of Worthington's Municipal Wastewater Treatment Facility (WWTF) is required by the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MPCA) to reduce the discharge of chlorides to Okabena Creek. A large portion of the chloride comes from water softener salt that is sent into the sanitary sewer collection system that flows to the WWTF and is discharged to Okabena Creek. Chlorides cannot be removed through conventional mechanical treatment at the WWTF. The connection to the Lewis and Clark Regional Water System allowed Worthington Public Utilities (WPU) to blend community water and provide a softer water to our customers. Since mid-2019, WPU has been delivering water at 17 grains hardness compared to 24 grains hardness previously. This alone will not meet MPCA State Standards. Your water softener must be adjusted to the new hardness. It can also be optimized for salt efficiency. This will result in less salt usage and cost savings for you, and lower the discharge of chlorides to the sanitary sewer system

REBATE PROGRAM:

Worthington Public Utilities partnered with Bolton & Menk, Inc., and received a Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MPCA) grant to provide **free** water softener setting adjustments (also known as optimization for salt use). The grant also provides up to \$4,000 rebates for upgrading or replacing certain softeners to more efficient water softeners.

PROGRAM ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA:

- ▶ Commercial businesses serviced by Worthington Public Utilities and Worthington Municipal Wastewater Treatment Facility
- ▶ Business must currently have a working water softener installed
- ▶ Businesses with timer based water softeners, rental exchange tanks, or softeners with a salt efficiency less than 3350 grains/lb salt are eligible for a rebate to replace the softener with an efficient (minimum rated 4000 gr/lb salt) demand initiated water softener or to complete equipment modifications per the rebate chart on the next page; certain softeners are eligible for an equipment retrofit/upgrade rebate of \$150
- ▶ Optimizations, retrofits/upgrades and replacements must be performed/installed by a qualified pre-approved vendor (list on worthingtonpublicutilities.com)
- ▶ Businesses with newer water softeners not eligible for replacement are eligible for a **free** optimization of settings to be performed by a qualified pre-approved vendor
- ▶ Optimizations, retrofits/upgrades and water softener replacements must be performed after 7/4/2022 to be eligible
- ▶ An alternative salt-free water conditioner may be eligible for a rebate, but must be pre-approved by the WPU
- ▶ Rebate funds are limited and subject to availability; optimizations, retrofits/upgrades or installations must be completed, with paperwork submitted by 4/30/2024
- ▶ Worthington Public Utilities reserves the right to inspect optimized and replacement water softeners
- ▶ Small businesses are also eligible to apply for an MPCA 0% interest loan for the equipment, <https://www.pca.state.mn.us/regulations/small-business-environmental-improvement-loans>

WATER SOFTENER REPLACEMENT REBATE SCHEDULE:

FACILITY	AVG. MONTHLY WATER USE (GAL)	REBATE
Commercial 1 (small business 4000-4999 gr/lb)	<20,000	\$500
Commercial 1 (small business >5000 gr/lb)	<20,000	\$700
Commercial 2 (e.g. 5-unit apt. bldg. and up)	20,000 - 150,000	33% of cost up to \$1,000
Commercial 3	150,001 - 300,000	33% of cost up to \$1,500
Commercial 4	300,001 - 1,500,000	33% of cost up to \$2,000
Commercial 5	1,500,000 - 3,000,000	33% of cost up to \$3,000
Commercial 6	>3,000,000	33% of cost up to \$4,000
Culligan system efficiency retrofit		\$150
Replace softener with a salt-free water conditioner, including reverse osmosis		Requires pre-approval

REBATE PROGRAM STEPS:

Contact a pre-approved water softening/conditioning contractor to inspect your water softener to determine if it can be optimized for salt use, or is eligible for retrofit/upgrade or replacement. A list of approved contractors can be found here: worthingtonpublicutilities.com.

If the water softener can be optimized and is not eligible for retrofit/upgrade or replacement, have the contractor complete the optimization (adjust hardness settings, salt dose, and other settings for lower salt use) at no cost to you.

If the unit is eligible for retrofit/upgrade or replacement, you may have that contractor complete the installation.

Make sure the installer adjusts the hardness setting on the new softener to match the current hardness (about 17 grains/gallon) and optimizes the softener for low salt use.

SUBMIT THE FOLLOWING INFORMATION TO RECEIVE THE REBATE:

1. Completed Commercial Water Softener Rebate Program Application form
2. Photos of newly installed equipment (see details below depending on type of equipment installed)
 - **water softener:** photo of whole system and close-up of controller (on top of softener tank)
 - **water conditioning system:** photo of installed device and closeup of device information
3. Copy of the contractor receipt/additional information from contractor showing the following (have contractor include completed forms with receipt):

For New Water Softeners and Softener Retrofit/Upgrades:

- Equipment manufacturer and model number
- For retrofit/upgrade include product name or list of equipment replaced
- Rated salt efficiency, salt optimization settings (water hardness, salt dose, reserve capacity, grain capacity, salt efficiency)
- Amount paid

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) and administered by the MPCA.





Commercial Water Softener Rebate Program Application

Please apply online at worthingtonpublicutilities.com or submit this application along with the required documents by email to wpu@worthingtonutilities.com, or mail or deliver to **Worthington Public Utilities, 318 Ninth Street, P.O. Box 458, Worthington, MN 56187**. Call 507-372-8680 with any questions.

APPLICANT:

Company Name: _____

Installation Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip Code: _____

Contact Name: _____ Title: _____

Daytime Telephone: _____ Email: _____

Send rebate check to (if different than above address)

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip Code: _____

WATER CONDITIONING VENDOR/CONTRACTOR INFORMATION

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip Code: _____

PRODUCT INFORMATION

Old Water Softener

Manufacturer: _____ Model Number: _____

Estimated Age: _____ Estimated number of bags of salt used per year: _____

INSTALLATION OR MODIFICATION COMPLETED

Water Softener Replaced Efficiency Retrofit Salt-free Water Conditioner Installed

Rebate amount: _____

IMPORTANT: Include copy of receipt & required documents from the dealer that installed the new equipment

SIGNATURE REQUIRED

I, _____ certify that I meet the program eligibility requirements, and that the information provided is true and correct, that the product was installed at the installation address provided above, and that the product meets the requirements of this rebate program.

Signature _____ Date _____

Rebate application and documentation must be submitted no later than 4/30/2024. Funds are subject to availability. Check rebate website to make sure funds are still available.