

# Hard Water Facts

**Hard water makes life... harder**

## What is Hard Water?

Hard water is aptly named because it makes so many tasks in the home harder. Housework takes longer with hard water. Clothes are not as clean after washing in hard water. Glassware comes out of the dishwasher spotty and scratched.

Hard water is tough on the budget too. Energy bills are higher and expensive appliances like water heaters, washing machines, and dishwashers wear out faster. The problems associated with hard water can be solved by installing a state-of-the-art water softener.

### Caused by calcium and magnesium dissolved in ground water

Groundwater flowing through limestone deposits dissolves two minerals found in limestone, calcium, and magnesium. Water containing these minerals is considered “hard”. Hardness is measured by grains per gallon. For example

- 0 grains = soft water
- 1 – 3 grains = slightly hard water
- 4 – 9 grains = hard water
- 10 or more = very hard water

Within the residence, the telltale signs of hard water become increasingly visible over time. Whitish scum accumulates around the bathtub and faucets and glassware looks spotty. Energy bills start to rise and clothes look dingy.

## Removing the Minerals

Water is soft if it contains no calcium and hard if it does. The key is to remove these minerals and rinse them down the drain. Water softeners perform this chemical sleight of hand. Softener units that are able to remove impurities before a rinse cycle is necessary are rated:

- 12,000 to 16,000 grains = small capacity
- 20,000 to 40,000 grains = medium capacity
- 40,000 grains or more = large capacity