

Bypassing or Shutting Down Water Treatment Equipment

Water Softeners and Backwashing Filters:

Most water softeners and backwashing filters have what is called a factory bypass installed on the equipment. A bypass is basically a way of shutting the water off to the equipment but still leaving you with water in the home. There are many types of factory bypass valves and we will try to cover most of them in the list below. If you have your owner's manual or can find a copy of it on the web then follow the instructions in the manual in order to bypass the equipment.

- 1) Plunger or Slide Valves – These types of bypass valves can either be attached right at the control valve of the equipment and where the plumbing comes in. You push or slide the plunger in the direction of the arrow or markings on the bypass valve in order to isolate the equipment. If the plunger has not been used in a long time it may be stiff and will need a fair hit with the palm of your hand to move it. Sometimes the plunger or slide valve is plumbed right into the water lines as well.
- 2) Turn knobs - These bypass valves can be found plumbed into the water lines above the equipment and generally have a brass body and a black knob handle that you turn in to bypass. Some of the newer systems have a factory turn knob style bypass incorporated as part of the control valve body where the plumbing comes into the equipment. For these styles of equipment you may have to remove the top cover of the equipment in order to access the bypass valve. Other turn knob styles have two knobs to turn on the inlet and outlet water lines. Both knobs need to be turned in order to isolate the equipment.
- 3) Lever Valves – Lever valves turn in a semi circle, usually 45 degrees. Most will have a red handle to turn.

On older water treatment equipment you may find what is called a three valve bypass plumbed directly into the plumbing. You will have shutoff valves on the inlet and outlet water lines of the equipment with a “joiner” valve above those valves between the inlet and outlet water pipes. You need to turn the inlet and outlet water valves off and open the “joiner” valve. Plumbed in valves can either be a handle that turns clockwise several times like an outside faucet or a ball valve with a handle. Ball valves will move 45 degrees to shut off. If the handle is in the direction of the water line, the valve is open and if the handle is perpendicular or looks like it is “blocking” the pipe the valve is off. These valves can be either brass or plastic.

If you require further information or wish to have your equipment isolated by a qualified Certified Water Technician from EcoWater Systems Calgary, use the contact us page on our website or click the link below. <http://ecowatercalgary.ca/eco-water-systems-calgary>