



WATER SOFTENER

What do water softeners do?

- Remove calcium out of water to make it 'soft'
- Hard water can reduce the lifespan of hot water services, dishwashers, washing machines and block pipework
- Often indicated by a lack of suds formation when soap is agitated in water, and by the formation of lime scale in appliances and on shower screens

How do they work?

- The resin (inside the cylindrical tank of the softener) filters the calcium out of the water
- When the water softener is regenerated (the timer is turned), the resin is flushed with salt water to clean it, so it can continue to work effectively

How often should they be regenerated?

- The resin should be flushed with salt water once a week. If not flushed/cleaned with salt regularly, the resin will fail a lot sooner
- You can get automatic and semi-automatic water softeners. Automatic water softeners regenerate themselves, but salt still needs to be added regularly
- With semi-automatic water softeners, the timer must be turned on once per week and set for one hour (once per fortnight for single occupants but is still best to do weekly to get into a routine)
- If you use house water whilst the softener is regenerating, the water will be hard, as the softener bypasses until regeneration is complete
- Break up the hardened salt regularly in the softener to prevent the salt from bridging

How long should they last?

- If looked after well and regenerated regularly, life span of approx. 10 years. What makes a softener stop working is that the resin fails. The softener will still appear to be operating as normal, but the water will be hard
- Resin can be replaced, but is half the cost of a new softener and so is rarely recommended, as all other softener components are aged

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