

# Water Softener Systems

**Install | Replace | Maintain**

*Protect your home, appliances, and skin from hard water damage.*

## **WHAT TO EXPECT WHEN OUR TECHNICIAN ARRIVES**

When you book a water softener service with Bayshore Plumbers, expect a thorough, thoughtful, and homeowner-focused experience.

### **Step-by-Step Process:**

1. **Assessment of Water Hardness**
  - We test your home's water for mineral content (typically calcium and magnesium) to determine if softening is needed and which capacity system suits your household.
2. **Inspecting Existing Plumbing**
  - We locate the main water line and assess space, drainage, and electrical availability for system installation or replacement.
3. **Installation or Maintenance**
  - For new installs or replacements, we:
    - Shut off main water supply
    - Bypass or remove old softener (if present)
    - Connect the new unit to your water system and set up drain line
    - Program the system to your home's hardness level and water usage
  - For maintenance, we:
    - Check salt levels and brine tank
    - Clean injectors and screens
    - Inspect control valves and regeneration settings
4. **Final Walkthrough & Testing**
  - We run the system, check flow rates and bypass, and guide you through care instructions.

### **Time Estimate:**

- Install/Replace: **2–4 hours**
- Maintenance: **30–60 minutes**

## **WHAT IS THIS FIXTURE FOR? WHY IS IT IMPORTANT?**

A **water softener system** removes excess minerals (like calcium and magnesium) from your home's water supply — the culprits behind "hard water." This is done through a process called **ion exchange**, where those minerals are replaced with harmless sodium or potassium ions.

## Why It Matters:

- Softer skin and shinier hair
- Cleaner dishes and brighter laundry
- Prevents limescale buildup in pipes, fixtures, and appliances
- Extends lifespan of water heaters, washing machines, and dishwashers
- Saves energy and repair costs by keeping plumbing efficient

Hard water doesn't usually pose a health threat, but it **damages plumbing, shortens appliance life**, and can **leave your home feeling less clean** even when it is.

## REPAIR OR REPLACE? YOUR OPTIONS

Based on your current system's age, condition, and performance, our technician may suggest:

- **Repair** — If the control valve, timer, or brine tank has failed
- **Spot Repair** — Replace minor components (resin, float, injectors)
- **Full Replacement** — If your softener is older than 10 years or inefficient
- **Upgrade** — Consider a smart or dual-tank system for large homes or high demand

## COMPARE YOUR OPTIONS

Option	Pros	Cons	Budget	Ideal When	Time to Complete
<b>Repair</b>	Restores system quickly, low cost	May not fix systemic aging issues	\$	Under 7 years old, minor malfunction	1–2 hours
<b>Spot Repair</b>	Targets a known issue (e.g., valve, resin beads)	May recur if other parts are aging	\$–\$\$	Recent unit with isolated issue	1–2 hours
<b>Full Replacement</b>	Reliable water softening, new warranty, high efficiency	Higher upfront cost	\$\$–\$\$\$	Over 10 years old, multiple issues	2–4 hours
<b>Upgrade</b>	Improved salt efficiency, smart controls, larger capacity	Costlier than basic system	\$\$\$	Large homes, tech-savvy users, heavy water usage	3–4 hours

## HOMEOWNER TIPS & TRICKS

- **Use the right salt:** Stick with high-purity salt pellets. Avoid rock salt.
- **Check brine tank monthly:** Refill salt and clean the tank as needed.

- **Clean showerheads and faucets:** Softened water helps, but monthly vinegar soaks prevent mineral build-up.
- **Bypass during outdoor watering:** Softened water isn't ideal for plants. Use bypass if watering the garden.
- **Schedule annual maintenance:** Like all plumbing systems, softeners perform better with tune-ups.

## **GIVE YOUR HOME THE WATER IT DESERVES.**

Bayshore Plumbers is your trusted partner for healthier water, cleaner living, and long-lasting plumbing. Whether it's a fresh install or reviving your old system, our team brings precision and peace of mind to every job.



**Call us today for a free estimate or water hardness test.**

We're **licensed, local, family-owned**, and proud to serve Bay Area homeowners with care.

## **Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ's):**

### **1. What is hard water, and how do I know if I have it?**

Hard water contains high levels of **minerals like calcium and magnesium**, which can cause buildup on fixtures, leave spots on dishes, and dry out your skin and hair. If you notice **white crust on faucets, soap not lathering well, or appliances wearing out early**, chances are you've got hard water — we can confirm with a quick test.

### **2. What does a water softener system do?**

A softener removes hard water minerals through a process called **ion exchange**, replacing them with sodium or potassium. The result? **Cleaner dishes, softer skin and clothes, longer-lasting appliances**, and fewer plumbing problems due to scale buildup.

### **3. Do I need to replace my old water softener or just repair it?**

If your softener is **less than 7–10 years old** and just showing a minor issue (like a faulty valve or timer), repair is usually enough. If it's older, inefficient, or causing recurring issues, we often recommend a **full replacement or upgrade** for better results and long-term savings.

### **4. How long does it take to install or maintain a system?**

- **Install or replacement:** 2–4 hours
  - **Routine maintenance** (salt check, injector cleaning, valve tune-up): 30–60 minutes
- We'll give you a full breakdown and walk you through care instructions before we leave.

### **5. How do I take care of my water softener between visits?**

- **Check salt levels monthly** and use only high-purity pellets
- **Clean your brine tank** once or twice a year
- **Use the system's bypass** when watering outdoor plants
- **Schedule an annual tune-up** to keep everything running smoothly

### **6. Is it worth upgrading to a smart or dual-tank softener?**

Yes — especially for **larger homes, high water usage**, or homeowners who want better **salt efficiency and remote monitoring**. These systems reduce waste, require fewer refills, and adapt to your usage patterns for long-term convenience and savings.