

Selling Water Treatment Equipment Do's and Don'ts

In the province of Ontario, the Ontario Building Code regulations states that:



7.2.10.17. Drinking Water Treatment Systems

(1) A drinking water treatment system or device shall be certified to CAN/CSA-B483.1, "Drinking Water Treatment Systems".

That means like a water heater or a furnace or a washing machine - the water treatment system shall be certified. If there are no recognizable certification marks, please check with the supplier for certification and listing information.

Energy Efficiency Claims



Water conditioners and softeners that remove hardness forming chemicals from the water do not qualify a homeowner for OME rebates or any rebates from the government. Energy Star and US EPA WaterSense products are applicable for some programs; be sure to thoroughly check with the local municipality for inclusion and rebate programs.



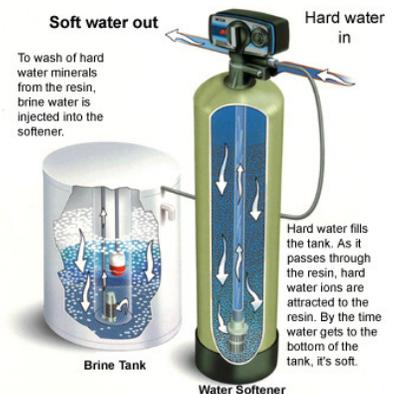
While an ion exchange water softener can prevent the build-up of scale on the water heater's heat exchanger, it cannot make that unit more energy efficient. The energy efficiency rating of that product is stipulated in Ontario Ministry of Energy regulation. Maintaining that efficiency rating is not yet part of regulation; thus water treatment devices cannot be considered within energy regulations as yet, thus there are no rebates programs.

Home renovation tax credits - at one point water treatment devices were included in the (old) federal home renovation tax credit system. That system is now defunct.

Can a Water Softener save me money?

The answer is yes. By preventing the scale buildup on heat exchange surfaces, the energy (and fuel) needed to heat water is maintained. Lime scale insulates the heating surface causing more energy to be used to bring water to temperature. Further, the water saving is realized by not running the tap until that water comes to temperature.

Further, soft water makes more effective use of soaps and cleaning chemicals to be effective utility water (for washing and cleaning).



Who can install a water softener?



Currently under the Ontario College of Trades rules, a plumber can install a water treatment device under their scope of practice. In other jurisdictions, CWQA certified technicians are allowed as well. A gas technician cannot install water treatment devices under their current scope of practice.