

Town of Ixonia
W1195 Marietta Ave.
P.O. Box 109
Ixonia, WI 53036



Sewer Utility District
No. 1 & No. 2
Phone: 920-261-1588
Fax 920-261-8988

FOR IXONIA SEWER UTILITY CUSTOMERS

Ixonia currently provides treatment of sanitary, cooling, and process wastewater discharged from your home or facility. However, some pollutants such as **chloride** are not removed in the wastewater treatment process and thus pass-through the plant when discharged back into the environment. Therefore, the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (WDNR) has enacted regulations to minimize chloride discharges *at their source* to reduce these chloride levels and prevent the harmful effects this pollutant has on the environment. Consequently, Ixonia is seeking voluntary chloride use reduction activities from all connections to their system.

How Can You Reduce the Amount of Chlorides You Discharge?

When you check the water softener at your home or business, consider the following:

- Consider using a portable exchange water softener. Water softener companies offer this service. Instead of discharging into the wastewater system, the water softener company picks up the brine tank and the salts can be disposed of under more controlled conditions.
- If purchasing a new water softener or replacing an existing water softener, choose the more efficient 'On-Demand' softener. Demand regeneration softeners are much more efficient because they use either a flow meter or sensor to determine when to begin the cycle. This allows for the softener to recharge when it really needs to, not just when the timer tells it to recharge. This type of control is more expensive, but it will pay for itself in as little as 3 years from reduced salt, water, and energy use.
- If your water softener is the older type that regenerates based on a timer, make sure it recharges at the lowest effective rate, and turn it off when you go on vacation.
- Have your service company set your water softener for the correct hardness level. Many water softeners have multiple hardness settings but are set at the highest hardness level when they are manufactured. Setting the softener for the proper hardness will save you money on salt and help protect our environment.
- Your outside faucets, called hose bibs, can be a significant source of demand on your water softener and may subsequently be causing you to use much more salt than necessary. Some homes are connected with all hose bibs plumbed to the softened source of water. This is clearly a waste of softened water when using this water for watering plants or lawns.
- Businesses and Industries need to make reductions of chloride in products used for daily operations.
- Do not over-treat sidewalks and drive-ways when deicing.

- For large water users, and commercial and industrial facilities, consider upgrading your current water softener with a brine reclaim system. Brine reclamation diverts a portion of the brine used to regenerate the softener back to the brine tank. Once the resin bed becomes regenerated, the 'sweet brine' is stored in the tank, perfect for reuse. This control system can potentially reduce your salt expense by 25% or more and decreases water consumption. A typical return on this investment can be as little as 1 year.

Incentive Program To Convert To A Metered On-Demand System

The Ixonia Utility District is offering UD#1 and UD#2 customers a \$100 rebate check for either **replacing or upgrading** their current unit to a more efficient 'On-Demand' system. This offer does not apply to new construction. We will require the submittal of the plumbing permit, inspection report, and a copy of your paid receipt of installation to process this rebate check.

By maintaining a properly set softener and not wasting softened water, you can greatly reduce the demand on your softener. This will reduce the salt usage, prolong the life of your equipment, and help the environment by reducing the chloride discharge to the sanitary sewer system, the treatment plant, and eventually to the Rock River. This will also help the Town meet the limits of our upcoming DNR permit, and keep sewer rates low.

If you have any further questions, please contact the Town of Ixonia Sewer Utility at 920-261-1588 between the hours of 7:30 A.M. – 4:30 P.M. Monday through Friday. Thank you for your help in this matter.