

**IMPORTANT NOTICE**  
**ABOUT WATER SOFTENER DISCHARGE**  
**ORDINANCE COMPLIANCE REQUIRED**

The Village of Pinckney would like to thank you in advance for your cooperation with the following efforts to enforce our ordinance 52.24(F) (see below)

By law, the Village of Pinckney is required to monitor levels of a variety of substances at its wastewater treatment plant. The Michigan Department of Environmental Quality sets certain standards for these substances with each discharge permit.

In 2008, due to excessive levels of sodium and chloride at the wastewater treatment plant, the Village implemented a rebate program in order to assist residents in complying with our ordinance forbidding softener discharge into the sewer system. **While our sodium and chloride levels were successfully reduced by the efforts, Village Council has revived the rebate program in order to assist new residents and businesses with continued compliance with the ordinance.**

**Rebate Program**

The Village will reimburse 50% of the cost – up to \$300 – of the implementation of any of the following softener discharge methods. ***A receipt for supplies, or from the installer, must be submitted and the project must be inspected by Village of Pinckney Department of Public Works in order to be eligible for this rebate. Rebates will be denied for the following reasons: missing receipts, billing for own labor, no proof of payment (copy of check, etc), no proof of DPW inspection and compliance.***

Rebates checks will be issued within 6 weeks of receipt of DPW inspection and approval.

**This program is NOT retroactive. Projects completed prior to April 11 2011 are not eligible for the rebate program.**

## **Disconnecting Your Water Softener Discharge**

The following are some options for disconnecting your water softener so it no longer discharges into the sewer:

A. Run the discharge line to the outside and let the water run onto property. Discharge must be contained on the homeowner's property. This is not a preferred method for several reasons, including the negative effect of softener discharge on plantings and grass. If you are on a well, the discharge must be at least 50 feet from the well site (per Livingston County Health Department).

B. Install a below-ground infiltration basin (dry-well): Bury a container in the ground, fill it with stone or sand, and run the discharge line to the container. Drill holes in the container to allow the water to seep into the surrounding soil. A sump pump tub, which ranges in size from 15 to 24 inches in diameter to 2 to 4 feet in depth, is an example of a container that could be used. See attached drawing for details.

C. Convert an existing septic tank: Pump out and clean your existing septic tank, break holes in the bottom of the tank and fill the tank with stone. Disconnect and plug the outlet pipe to the tile field to prevent groundwater from flowing back into the tank.

D. Install a no-discharge conditioning system: A new technology is now available that conditions water without using sodium or potassium chloride. These systems condition the water so staining and corrosion are eliminated, do not require salt, and only discharge the iron which is septic-safe. Contact your water softener installer for details.

## **Other Cost and Water Savings Recommendations**

How old is your softener? Newer, "on-demand" systems can offer significant water and cost savings. These softeners are programmed to cycle only when a certain amount of water is used. Often, the only cost to upgrade is in replacing the timer on the system. Call your water softener company today to see how your softener can be more efficient and less expensive to run.

We continue to offer irrigation meters at a reduced rate of \$210. Installation of these meters ensures that your irrigation water is NOT used in calculating your sewer bill. The meters also offer a way to monitor your outside water use; most lawns need less than 1 inch of water each week to stay green and growing. Contact us for details and order forms, 734-878-6206.

## **Questions**

Please call the Department of Public Works at 734-878-0666 with any questions and to schedule an inspection.

### **Ordinance 52.24 (F)**

(F) A separate and independent dry well or similar device that shall adequately handle backwash shall be provided for every water conditioning device and the water conditioning device shall be connected to the dry well or similar device in such a manner as to prevent the discharge of backwash into the Sewage Disposal System. All new residential, commercial or industrial buildings shall also be required to install a separate and independent dry well or similar device that shall be designed and constructed to adequately handle backwash to prevent the discharge of backwash into the Sewage Disposal System even if a water conditioning device is not initially installed. This shall also apply to all residential, commercial or industrial properties that have been destroyed or demolished and subsequently are being, or have been, rebuilt, remodeled or otherwise restored. A physical inspection and approval of the dry well or similar device and its related plumbing shall be made by the Director or his or her designee, for all newly constructed, remodeled, rebuilt or otherwise restored buildings, before water and sewer service is provided by the village. It shall be the duty of each property owner who owns a building covered by this division to install, maintain, replace or clean the dry well or similar device at his or her own expense.