



Santa Clarita Valley Residents: Take the Rebate and Run: Up to \$2,000 for your Automatic Water Softener

The Santa Clarita Valley Sanitation District (Sanitation District) has launched a new automatic water softener rebate program. If you have an automatic water softener, you can get a rebate for the reasonable value of the unit—from \$325 up to \$2,000—and free removal by a pre-selected licensed plumber. If you rent your system, you are eligible for a \$100 rebate.

Applying for the rebate is simple:

- 1 Submit the one page rebate application to the Sanitation District (forms can be obtained by calling 877-CUT-SALT or visiting www.lacsd.org/chloride)
- 2 After receiving your authorization to proceed, which will identify your rebate amount, schedule an appointment with a plumber on the list that accompanies the letter
- 3 Watch the mail for your check.

As you may be aware, automatic water softeners release a salty waste into the sewer system. Though the wastewater is thoroughly treated before discharge into the Santa Clara River, the treatment process does not remove salt. The salty waste may be harmful to downstream aquatic life and/or agriculture.

If all automatic water softeners are not removed, the Sanitation District will be forced to build a \$350 million advanced treatment process to take the salt out of the water. Increased operating costs could be upward of \$10 million per year. A pound of salt that costs the consumer just 12 cents to put into their softener unit will cost the Sanitation District \$5 to remove. To cover these increased costs, area residential sewer bills could quadruple up to \$500 each year.

In 2003, the Sanitation District banned the installation of all new automatic water softeners, but one in 11 homes in the Valley still have one. This new rebate program responds to citizen concerns about losing the capital investment in their softener by reimbursing the reasonable value of the unit based on age, purchase price and model retail rates.

If you have already received a rebate for removing your automatic water softener, the Sanitation District will reimburse you for the balance under the new rebate program.

For additional information about the new rebate program, please visit:
www.lacsd.org/chloride or call 877-CUT-SALT.

Please note that while this rebate program provides reimbursement for 100% of the reasonable value of these automatic water softeners, if the mandatory removal program authorized by state law is implemented, future reimbursements will drop to 75%. These mandatory provisions could be implemented as early as January 1, 2009.

Sincerely,

Paul C. Martyn
Head, Industrial Waste Section
Sanitation Districts of Los Angeles County