

CAN MY WATER SOFTENER DISCHARGE TO MY ONSITE SEWAGE TREATMENT SYSTEM?

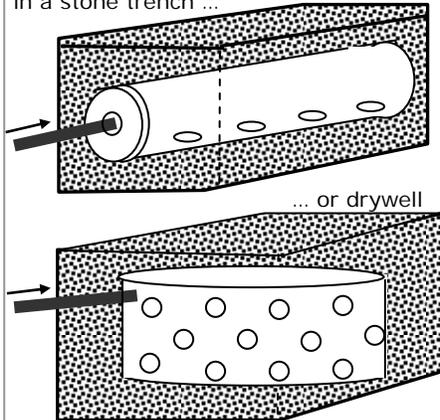
Water from a recharging water softener should avoid the onsite sewage treatment system to decrease the volume and salinity of the liquid treated by the onsite sewage treatment system. Preferred methods for managing water softener discharge include:

- constructing a subsurface, tile trench using a perforated pipe surrounded by stone or other similar aggregate
- draining the discharge on the surface of the ground, away from the area of the onsite sewage treatment system, although the salty water may kill grass or leave an iron stain
- connecting the water softener discharge to its own drywell, separate from the onsite sewage treatment system

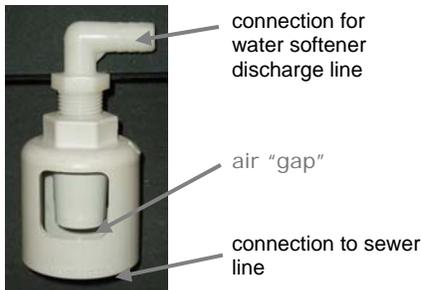


Alternate methods for water softener discharge

Water softener discharged to an approximately 10-foot perforated pipe in a stone trench ...



An air gap protects your water supply



Although not recommended, salt-rich water from a recharging water softener may be discharged to an onsite sewage treatment system. However, using a sanitary **air gap** prevents a potential back-up of sewage from contaminating the water supply through the softener's discharge hose. Diverting water softener discharge from entering the septic tank is most preferred.