



Application for Water Softener Alternative Installation

Background

The City of Detroit Lakes Public Utilities received a grant to test a new kind of water softener that doesn't use salt! A few homes and businesses have installed these units, and even utility workers have them in their houses. This new system is made to lower the amount of chloride that comes from regular salt-based softeners. This will help the City stay within its chloride limits at the wastewater treatment plant.

Too much chloride can hurt fish and other water animals and contaminates the water. If you chose to participate in this trial, you'll be helping the environment and your whole community. You might also help the City avoid spending millions of dollars on upgrading its treatment system.

Trial Overview

We are seeking up to **12** property owners to participate in this **six-month** trial. Participants will receive:

- **Free installation** of the salt-free softener system
- **Monitoring water usage and chloride levels**
- **Ongoing support and maintenance**
- **Option to keep the system at no cost** if satisfied after the trial.

This project is made possible through a grant from the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency, funded by the Clean Water Land and Legacy Amendment.

Technology Partner

The City is partnering with Bauer Energy Design, developer of this water softening technology. There is also more information regarding this opportunity available here [www.sehinc.com/detroit-lakes].

Q&A Session

Join us at **City Hall 1025 Roosevelt Ave on Thursday, October 23rd from 5:00 PM to 7:00 PM** for a Q&A session. Utility staff will be available to answer questions and accept applications.

Eligibility & Selection Criteria

We are prioritizing properties that meet the following criteria:

- **Location:** Within the industrial park southeast of Highway 10, along South Shore Drive, extending south to the channel near Long Bridge Road (shown below)



- **Water use:** The City has records of water use and wants to ensure this installation offers a meaningful impact to the chloride levels. Seasonal residences or properties with little water usage will not be prioritized.
- **Presence of a softener:** The City has records of existing softeners.
- **Salt Use:** The application will ask you to estimate the amount of salt that is added to your water softener each year.
- **Utility room space:** We are requesting rough dimensions of your utility room as we need to make sure the proposed equipment can fit around your existing softener.

After the six-month test ends, the Utility has grant money to start a rebate program. This program helps people in the City who didn't join the first test replace their water softeners with the new kind. This project is sponsored by the State of Minnesota through a grant from the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency with funding from the Clean Water Land and Legacy Amendment.

How Can You Help?

We are seeking property owners who are willing to participate in this trial to have the water softener alternative installed on their property. Your participation will involve the Utility monitoring your water usage and chloride levels over a period of 6 months and permitting access for installation and required maintenance/adjustments. We are looking for your feedback on the system's performance.

If you are selected to participate, at the conclusion of this six-month trial, you will have the opportunity to retain this equipment at no cost.

Application Form

If you are interested in participating or would like more information, please complete the application found on the Program's website (www.sehinc.com/detroit-lakes) or complete the following fields and submit as described below. Applications are due by October 30, 2025.

Name: _____

Phone Number: _____

Address:

Dimensions of Utility Room (L ft x W ft):
_____ X _____

Estimated Salt Added to Water Softener (pounds per year) _____

Level of Interest (please check all that apply):

- ☐ I am interested in learning more about a future rebate program.
- ☐ I am interested in participating in the trial. The City will schedule a follow-up meeting to discuss.

Hard Copy Submission

In lieu of online submittal, please either drop off or mail your completed application 1025 Roosevelt Ave, Detroit Lakes, MN 56501 by October 30, 2025. If you have any questions, feel free to contact Aubrey Barthel at abarthel@sehinc.com or 651-256-7958.

