WHICH SYSTEM IS RIGHT FOR YOUR HOME?

# Salt-Based vs. Salt-Free

Both systems include a whole-home carbon tank that reduces chlorine taste and odor. The difference is how they handle hard water.

SALT-BASED

## Water Softener

ClarityShield Dual Tank & Single Tank. Ion exchange removes hardness minerals.

### BENEFITS

- **Truly soft water.** Removes calcium and magnesium, so water tests soft.
- **Strongest scale protection.** Helps prevent buildup in water heaters, pipes and fixtures.
- **Fewer spots.** Cleaner glassware, shower doors and fixtures.
- **Less soap needed.** Soaps and detergents lather more easily.

### DRAWBACKS

- **Salt refills.** The brine tank needs regular top-ups.
- **Uses water to regenerate.** Brine rinse goes to a drain every few days.
- **Adds a little sodium.** Potassium chloride can be used instead of salt.
- **Not allowed everywhere.** Restricted in some areas, such as the Santa Clarita Valley.

**Best for:** Homes that want truly soft water and the fewest spots, in areas where salt-based softeners are allowed.

SALT-FREE

## Water Conditioner

ClarityShield Salt-Free. Conditions minerals so they're less likely to form scale.

### BENEFITS

- **Nothing to refill.** No salt bags and no brine tank.
- **No wastewater.** No regeneration, no drain line and no electricity.
- **Minerals stay in.** Nothing is removed and no sodium is added.
- **Allowed in restricted areas.** An option where salt-based softeners are banned.

### DRAWBACKS

- **Water isn't softened.** Hardness minerals remain and water still tests hard.
- **Spots can still appear.** Expect some spotting on glass and fixtures.
- **No "soft water" feel.** Water feels the same as before in the shower.
- **Media needs replacing.** The conditioning media wears out over time.

**Best for:** Homes in restricted areas, or owners who want low maintenance and no salt, and don't need truly soft water.

| AT A GLANCE | Salt-based | Salt-free |
|---|---|---|
| Removes hardness minerals | Yes | No, reduces scale instead |
| Salt & brine tank | Required | None |
| Drain & power outlet | Required | None |
| Routine upkeep | Salt top-ups | Periodic media replacement |