

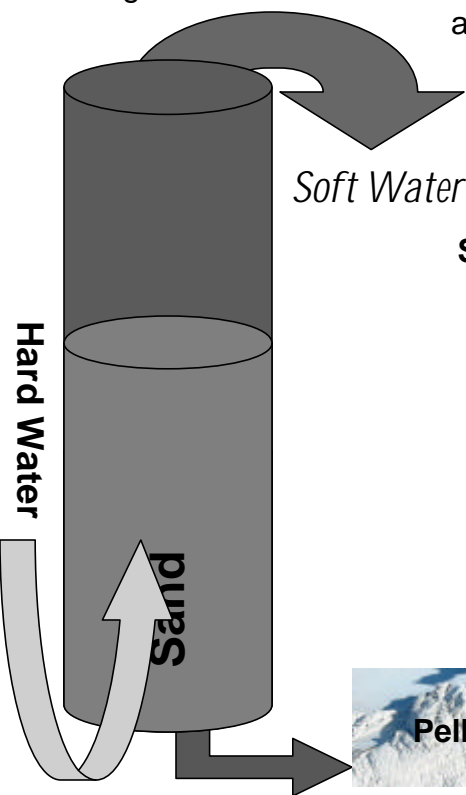
Valencia Water Company

Groundwater Softening Demonstration Project

Valencia Water Company is dedicated to providing reliable and quality service to our customers. As part of this goal Valencia Water Company recognizes the need to not only meet drinking water standards, but also to meet the aesthetic water quality needs of our customers. The groundwater softening demonstration project is designed to alleviate the number one water quality concern of our customers...Hard Water.

Hard water is water that has naturally high levels of minerals, primarily calcium. Calcium precipitates (forms a solid) out of water and leaves spots on glasses, dishes, plumbing fixtures, cars, etc. It also creates build up in appliances making them less energy efficient. Over the years, Valencia Water Company customers have chosen to install "point-of-use" (home) water softeners. Home softeners can be extremely expensive and some (in particular self-regenerating softeners) add chlorides to the Santa Clara River. Increasing levels of chlorides in the Santa Clara River can cause negative environmental impacts including damage to crops.

Valencia Water Company believes that through an innovative softening technology (called Pellet Softening) we can virtually eliminate the hard water problems our customers experience and also help the environment by reducing the level of chloride discharged into the river. Valencia Water Company plans to test this technology by softening groundwater produced from one of our wells. If the results are favorable, the treatment system will be installed on most of our groundwater wells. Source prevention is an environmentally superior and cost-effective alternative to end-of-use treatment.



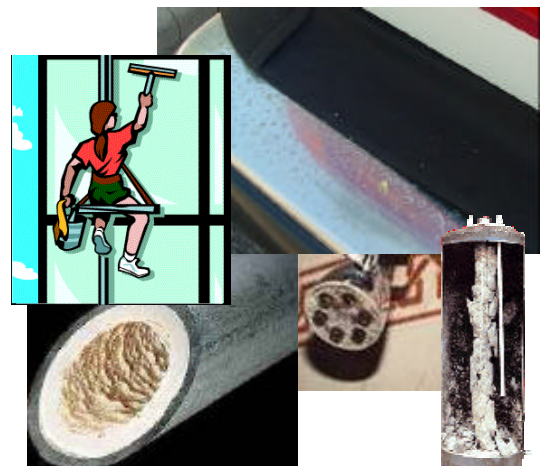
For more information on chlorides in the Santa Clara River, visit

<http://www.lacsd.org/chloride/>

Sanitation Districts of Los Angeles County

"According to a [study released by the Sanitation District](#) in 2002, the largest source of chloride in the Santa Clarita area is residences, particularly residences with automatic water softeners."

Common Hard Water Problems



Pellet Softening uses a column filled with sand. By raising the pH of hard water and flowing it up through the column, the calcium carbonate precipitates out and adheres to the sand, creating beautiful white pellets. These environmentally safe pellets are the only by-product of the process and can be reused in various industries.