**Soft Water Value**

The Leavenworth Waterworks Board firmly believes that our drinking water is the "best value" option available to customers throughout Leavenworth County. Our drinking water not only complies with all E.P.A. and K.D.H. E. rules and regulations, it also is softened in the treatment process. The Leavenworth Waterworks is the only water supplier in Leavenworth County which provides softened water.

The following estimate shows several soft water versus hard water cost savings Cleaning, laundering, dishwashing, and bathing are done better, quicker, and cheaper with soft water. Performance and longevity of household appliances and plumbing improves. Furthermore, soft water from a central treatment plant is healthier than home water softeners that add sodium to drinking water. Yes, hard water may be cheaper to buy than soft water; however, soft water is better and more economical when all costs associated with the use and inconvenience of hard water is considered.

**Soft Water - Hard Water Estimate**

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| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **$ Monthly Savings** |  |  |  |
|  | Hard Water  Cost/Month | Soft Water  % Savings | Soft Water  Savings/Month |
| Plumbing & Appliances:  Replace & repair of faucets, fixtures, wash machine, dishwasher, water heaters, etc | $10.00 | 60% | $6.00 |
| Clothing & Linens:  Clothes, towels, linens, underwear, etc. | $35.00 | 30% | >$10.50 |
| Energy Consumption:  Excess cost due to scale build up in water heater. | $20.00 | 30% | $6.00 |
| Soaps & Cleaning Aids:  Laundry detergent, cleaning products, dish washer soap, shampoo, conditioner, bathing soap, fabric softener, etc. | $40.00 | 60% | $24.00 |
| TOTAL MONTHLY COST/SAVINGS | $105.00 |  | $46.50 |

This is a Leavenworth Waterworks estimate on savings for removing 180 parts per million (10.5 grains per gallon) hardness from water. **The estimated savings is for an average family of four**. The Leavenworth Waterworks' treatment processes remove an average of 180 parts per million hardness.

Sources of additional information about soft water and its value.

·         Your local health department or county Extension Office

·         Your local library

·         Water Quality Association [http://wqa.org](https://nam02.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=http%3A%2F%2Fwqa.org%2F&data=04%7C01%7Cnorthupk%40ecowater.com%7C2e16d06a93f548a530c808d8b71a9b7b%7Cbe26e4a484e648d58f760108b1aa4755%7C0%7C0%7C637460672925797878%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C3000&sdata=G9cXI%2BUQuKFk5GXYqfPFUNnbEMOQsfuzEFG%2BtPkwKbI%3D&reserved=0)

·         Water Technology [www.watertechonline.com](https://nam02.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=http%3A%2F%2Fwww.watertechonline.com%2F&data=04%7C01%7Cnorthupk%40ecowater.com%7C2e16d06a93f548a530c808d8b71a9b7b%7Cbe26e4a484e648d58f760108b1aa4755%7C0%7C0%7C637460672925797878%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C3000&sdata=%2FmB8GkI0dxOsxFIf1CG8V%2BmyhPmA%2FNNQ6nkCqLkN7CI%3D&reserved=0)

**Soft Water Benefits**

After adding up all the savings that water softening generates, many customers conclude they need soft water in their homes. Soft water makes a real difference. The following are several ways soft water saves you money every day.

*Lower energy cost.* According to the Water Quality Research Council at New Mexico State University, water heaters work nearly 30% more efficiently when operated on soft water.

*Fewer repair bills.* Without exception, all water-using appliances work more efficiently and require fewer repairs with soft water. Even leading appliance manufacturers, such as Maytag, recommend using soft water for optimum performance of their products. Plumbing lasts longer, too, without the lime scale buildup caused by hard water.

*Less money for cleaners and detergents.* Since soaps and detergents work more efficiently in soft water, you'll only need one-fourth to one-half of the amount you need for hard water. And you'll be able to obtain optimum results using shorter wash cycles and cooler water.

*Smaller clothing allowance.* Clothes last longer and look better when washed with soft water. According to a study conducted at Purdue University, the life of clothing and household textiles was prolonged up to 15% when washed in conditioned water. When detergents mix with hard water, they form lime curd deposits which can cause yellowing or graying of clothes. As the deposits accumulate, they contribute to fabric stiffening, matting, and wear.

*Fewer lotions and conditioners.* Hard water can dry skin and hair because the minerals combine with the soap to form a sticky residue that's difficult to rinse away. With soft water this film doesn't form, so hair and skin are smoother and healthier looking.

*Time and work.* With soft water on the job, you not only realize a savings in terms of dollars, but also in the form of another valuable asset - your time. That's because sinks, faucets, fixtures, floors, and toilets can be cleaned more quickly and less frequently with soft water. An Ohio State University study demonstrated that soft water reduces the amount of time for weekly household cleaning from four hours to two hours and 21 minutes-a savings of more than 10 eight-hour working days per year.

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