

HINTS FOR HOMEOWNERS

Hard Water Is True To Its Name— Hard On Pipes, And Even Harder On Your Pocketbook

(NAPSA)—If your water is turning your socks into rocks or petrifies your pajamas, you're not alone. According to the U.S. Geological Survey, about 75 percent of the U.S. has to cope with hard water, which is water with excessive levels of calcium and magnesium.

Hard water, as defined by the Water Quality Association, is water that contains dissolved hardness minerals above three grains per gallon (GPG). Water hardness information for your area can be obtained through your municipal water supply, water department, your county extension agent for private wells or a local water softening expert.

Hard water is fine for many outdoor uses. For indoor use such as bathing, doing dishes and washing clothes, however, hard water is not as efficient or convenient as "soft water." If your water tests over three GPG, consider softening it with a water conditioner.

The experts at Culligan, world-renowned for its water conditioning and filtration expertise, offer the following tips:

- **Significantly reduce water heating bills.** Hard water can clog appliances, blocking the plumbing and making them less efficient.

- **Increase water flow.** Hard water can leave deposits on your pipes that will bring your water flow to a screeching halt. Water softeners remove these deposits before they collect in your pipes.

- **Make household cleaning easier, and less expensive.** Softened water reduces soap scum and scaling, making cleaning easier and decreases the amount of costly detergents required.



Experts offer advice to help keep kitchens, baths and even skin cleaner with softened water.

- **Reduce soapy residues on clothes and skin.** Conditioned water helps make hair look shinier and skin cleaner, and clothes look and wear better.

Hard water is a waste that most of us can do without, costing hundreds of dollars annually in the efficiency and life expectancy of water heaters and water-using appliances, additional laundry operations and household cleaning products. Anyone interested in having water tested can contact a Culligan dealer—to find one near you, see your local Yellow Pages, visit www.culligan.com, or call 1-800-CULLIGAN. Having your water tested will help you determine your options for cleaner, softer and more cost-effective water for your whole family.