

# Kinetico ESSENTIAL

SERIES®

WATER SOFTENERS



## Model/Product Numbers

Gold (15759)

Platinum (15210)



Owner's Manual  
Guide d' utilisation  
Manual del usuario

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Congratulations!

We know you'll love your clean, soft water and your new Kinetico Essential Series® water softener. You'll soon wonder how you ever lived without it.

Improving your water with a Kinetico Essential Series water softener is just one way to enjoy better water in your home. Contact your Kinetico dealer for more information about additional products.



**Note:** Photos shown with optional slider by-pass, not included with system.



Kinetico Essential Series Water Conditioning Systems are tested and certified by WQA against the requirements of NSF/ANSI Standard 44 for softener performance and chemical reduction of barium and radium 226/228. They are also certified to NSF/ANSI 372, Drinking Water System - Lead Content and the CSA Standard B483.1 - Drinking Water Treatment Systems.

# How to Use Soft Water

Now that your Kinetico Essential Series water softener is installed, you can enjoy all the benefits of having soft water. If you are not accustomed to soft water, here are some tips to follow to get the most benefit from your new system:

## ***Use pure soap products.***

Most leading brands of laundry soaps, household cleaners and shampoos contain large amounts of detergents. The harsh chemicals in these detergents are necessary when using hard water, but you can reduce your use or eliminate them altogether with soft water. We recommend you use pure soap products, clear liquid soaps without dyes and perfumes. If you continue to use your normal detergents, you should significantly reduce the amount used. Your Kinetico dealer can provide you with more information and recommended detergent amounts.



## ***Use less soap and household cleaners.***

When using soap or cleaners with soft water, start by cutting the amount of soap you normally use in half. You may even find you can use as little as one-quarter the amount you were using before. Hardness minerals in water interfere with soap's cleaning ability. Once they are removed, soap can do its job better. Even though you'll use less soap, you'll get more suds and cleaner results.

It's especially important to reduce the amount of laundry soap you use. Washing clothes in soft water not only means you'll need less soap to get your clothes clean, but also that the soap you do use will rinse out completely. Washing in soft water makes your clothes look whiter and brighter, and they'll last longer too. It is very important not to let your clothes sit in the washer after the cycle is complete. Detergent buildup can stain your clothing. When possible, use clear, liquid soaps, without dyes or perfumes.



## ***Soft water, better water.***

After bathing in soft water, your skin should feel "slippery." It's not soap you feel on your skin. What you're feeling is your own smooth skin without any leftover soap curd or residue. When you bathed in hard water, you were never able to rinse this residue off completely. The soap curd that left a ring in your bathtub was also left on your skin. But now that you have soft water, you'll feel soft, smooth and clean. The same holds true for rinsing shampoo out of your hair.

## ***Reduce or eliminate the use of fabric softeners.***

Fabrics washed in hard water retain soap curd or residue making them "crackle" when removed from the dryer or stiff if air-dried. Fabric softeners are necessary with hard water to keep your clothing soft, but with soft water, you can reduce your use of fabric softeners or eliminate them altogether.

***Take special precautions with automatic dishwashers.***

Soft water, when combined with caustic phosphates in some dishwasher detergents and very high temperatures in the dry cycle, can etch dishes and glassware. To prevent this possibility:

- use the “no heat” dry cycle on your dishwasher;
- use the minimum amount of a good quality, low phosphate dishwasher detergent needed to clean your dishes. This may be as little as 20 percent of the amount recommended by the appliance manufacturer or on the dishwasher soap box;
- wash good china and crystal by hand.



***Special care for plants and fish.***

Depending on your water hardness level, amount of rainfall and how often you water, you could use soft water for outside watering, but why waste your soft water? Water your lawn, shrubs and outside plants from an outside hard water faucet, or put your Kinetico Essential Series water softener in by-pass before watering. See “By-pass” on page 6 for instructions on by-passing your system. Many houseplants can be watered with soft water, although some can be highly sensitive to the elevated level of sodium ions in soft water. You may prefer to water houseplants with hard water or water from a reverse osmosis system.



Fish accustomed to hard water may have trouble with an abrupt change to soft water. Make the change gradually over a period of seven to 14 days by blending hard and soft water until the tank contains 100 percent soft water. Once you begin using soft water, you should notice that your fish tank stays cleaner longer.

# Product Line Overview

Kinetico Essential Series water softeners are available in two (2) sizes that allow you to use the ideal configuration for your application.

	Essential Gold	Essential Platinum
Tank Size	8" x 17"	9" x 35"
Media Volume (per tank)	0.37 cu. ft.	0.60 cu. ft.
Maximum Compensated Hardness	42 gpg	50 gpg
Maximum Iron (ferrous)	0.5 mg/L	0.5 mg/L
Maximum Iron (ferric)	0.01 mg/L	0.01 mg/L
Backwash Flow Rate	1.0 gpm	2.5 gpm

## System Operation

Your Kinetico Essential Series water softener is designed to provide years of trouble-free operation. The following cycles soften your water and regenerate your system when necessary.

**Service:** Hard water enters the unit at the valve inlet and flows down through the center tube. The hard water then passes through the lower distributor and flows up through the resin. Conditioned water passes through the upper distributor and flows to the system outlet and into your home.

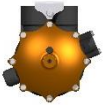
### Regeneration:

**Brine/Slow Rinse:** Hard water enters the unit at the valve inlet and flows into the compartment housing the venturi which draws brine (or sodium chloride solution) from the brine tank or cabinet. Brine flows down through the resin and then enters the center tube through the lower distributor. Then, the brine flows through the drain valve to the drain line. The resin beads are replenished with sodium ions from the brine solution during the brine/slow rinse stage. Since the resin beads prefer calcium and magnesium ions, a high concentration of sodium ions during the brine and slow rinse stages is necessary to force the calcium and magnesium off the resin beads.

**Backwash:** Hard water enters the unit at the valve inlet, flows down through the resin bed, and then through the lower distributor to the center tube. The backwash water then flows through the drain valve to the drain line. The backwash flow rinses excess brine from the resin bed after the brine/slow rinse so that you do not get "salty" water after going back into service.

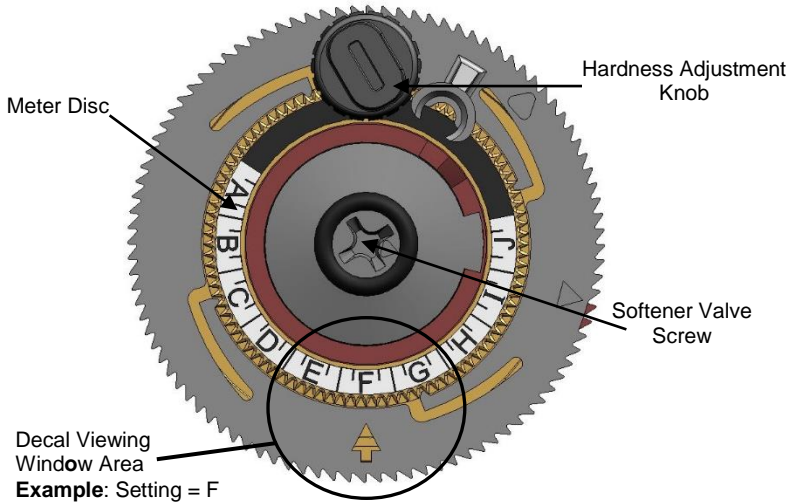
**Brine Tank/Cabinet Refill:** After brine draw, hard water refills the brine tank/cabinet through the brine valve to make a brine solution for the next regeneration.

**AccuDial Adjustment:**



The valve allows for the adjustment of regeneration frequency based on inlet water hardness. This improves performance and reduces water consumption. The integrated system meter tracks the volume of water processed and after the adjustable set-point has been reached, the regeneration process begins.

**Top View of Softener Valve**



**Note:** Actual disc colors and markings may vary. Colors shown are for illustration purposes only.

# System Maintenance and Install Guidelines

## Adding Salt

Ensure that the salt level in the brine tank or cabinet is always above the water level.

Use a quality grade of pellet salt processed especially for use in water softeners. DO NOT USE ROCK SALT.

## Water Pressure

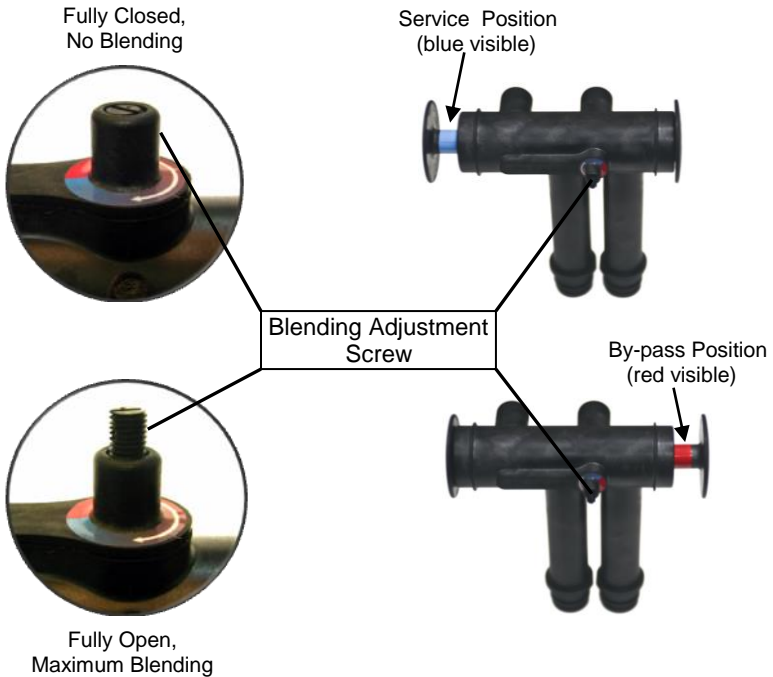
Inlet water pressure range of 25 – 125 psi is required for valve to operate effectively.

## Existing Plumbing

Existing plumbing should be free from lime and iron buildup. Replace plumbing that has heavy lime and/or iron buildup. If plumbing is clogged with iron, install a separate iron filter unit ahead of the water softener.

## System By-pass

Installation should always include a system by-pass. If optional by-pass (shown below) is not used, please use alternate design.



## Manual Regeneration

If the unit runs out of salt, refill with salt, and then manually regenerate the system. Using a #2 Phillips screwdriver, push down firmly on the softener valve screw (see page 5) and slowly turn clockwise, listening for four (4) clicks to start the regeneration. At this point you should hear water begin to run through the system. If you do not hear water running through the system, the disc has not been advanced far enough, or you are not pressing down hard enough while turning.

**NOTE:** If your hot water tank has refilled with hard water, it may take several days for it to empty and for your water to feel soft again.

## CAUTION

- Do not exceed water pressure of 125 psi.
- Do not exceed water temperature of 120°F.
- Do not subject unit to freezing conditions.

## Cold Weather Protection

If your Kinetico Essential Series water softener is installed outside or in an area that is not heated, you should take precautionary measures to prevent damage to your unit from freezing.

**NOTE:** Kinetico's Limited Warranty doesn't cover damage to your system due to freezing. If you have questions about your Kinetico Essential Series water softener, or if you suspect that it isn't working properly, contact your authorized Kinetico dealer.

## Sanitization

After installation, or if water is not used for >30 days, sanitization of the system is recommended.

- Regenerate system. After regeneration, go through sanitization procedures:
  - Mix 1 oz. of household, unscented bleach with 1 U.S. gallon of water in a bucket.
  - Disconnect brine line from brine valve.
  - If the brine line is too short, a length of 3/8" tubing may be connected temporarily to the brine port for this use.
  - Place brine line in bucket with diluted bleach solution.
  - Place system into brine draw.
  - Draw the solution, then put unit into by-pass. Not all the solution will be consumed.
  - Let bleach soak tank for 60 minutes.
  - Reconnect brine line to brine tank.
  - Open by-pass valve, continue with system regeneration cycle.
  - After cycle is complete, repeat the backwash cycle.
  - Return unit to service.



## Commonly Asked Questions

### ***There has been a drop in my home's water pressure. What might be the cause?***

A reduction in your home's water pressure can indicate that it is time to change your prefilter. If you do not have a prefilter with your system or changing the filter has no effect, contact your authorized Kinetico dealer.

### ***My system seems to be regenerating more frequently. Is this normal?***

Remember, your Kinetico Essential Series water softener is demand-operated, adjusting automatically to your water usage. If you do not think that your water usage has increased due to extra house guests, additional laundry or some other reason, check for any leaky plumbing, dripping faucets or running toilets, all of which can contribute to more frequent regenerations.

### ***My water doesn't seem soft. How can I be sure that my system is regenerating properly?***

Be sure that the water supply to the softener is not by-passed. Follow the instructions on page 7 to manually regenerate the softener tanks. If the unit does not begin advancing to the next regeneration automatically, please contact your authorized Kinetico dealer for further assistance.

### ***I can hear my Kinetico Essential Series water softener running or regenerating during the day. My old softener only used to run at night. Is this normal?***

Unlike traditional water softeners, Kinetico Essential Series water softeners operate on demand based on your water usage, without timers or electronics. So your system regenerates whenever necessary, at any time of day.

### ***How will I know when it is time to add salt?***

Lift the lid of the cabinet to check the level of salt. If you can see water, it is time to add salt. You can add salt any time there is enough room to accommodate additional blocks or pellets.

### ***Is it OK to drink soft water?***

Yes, soft water is OK for drinking and cooking. If your softener regenerates with sodium chloride (salt), keep in mind that there will be a small amount of sodium added to the softened water. People who are on sodium restricted diets should consider the added sodium as part of their overall sodium intake.



If at any time you feel your Kinetico Essential Series water softener is not operating properly, put the system in by-pass and call your authorized Kinetico dealer.

## Kinetico Dealer Information

Company Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Web Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Email Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone Number: \_\_\_\_\_

Salesperson's Name: \_\_\_\_\_

## System Installation Information

Model: \_\_\_\_\_

Date of Installation: \_\_\_\_\_

Number of People in Household: \_\_\_\_\_

Hardness: \_\_\_\_\_ mg/L

Ferrous Iron: \_\_\_\_\_ mg/L

Ferric Iron: \_\_\_\_\_ mg/L

pH: \_\_\_\_\_

TDS: \_\_\_\_\_ mg/L

Temperature: \_\_\_\_\_

Pressure: \_\_\_\_\_