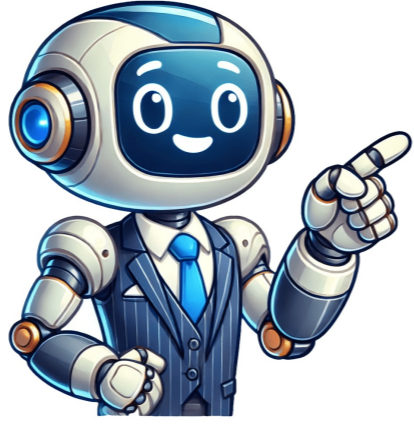


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Water softeners are essential appliances for many households, providing a consistent supply of soft water that benefits everything from your skin and hair to your plumbing fixtures and appliances. Culligan water softeners are known for their reliability and efficiency, but like any mechanical device, they require occasional maintenance to function optimally. Understanding how to reset, regenerate, and generally care for your Culligan water softener will ensure it continues to deliver the soft water you rely on. This guide provides a straightforward approach to these essential tasks. Understanding Regeneration/Regeneration is the core process that allows a water softener to continue removing hardness minerals like calcium and magnesium from your water supply. Over time, the resin beads inside the softener become saturated with these minerals, reducing their effectiveness. Regeneration involves flushing these minerals away and recharging the resin beads with sodium or potassium ions. Think of it like hitting the reset button on the softener's ability to do its job. The regeneration cycle typically involves several stages: 1. Backwash: Water flows backward through the resin tank to loosen the resin bed and remove accumulated sediment. 2. Brine Draw: A concentrated salt solution (brine) is drawn from the brine tank into the resin tank. The sodium (or potassium) in the brine replaces the hardness minerals on the resin beads. 3. Rinse: The remaining brine and displaced hardness minerals are flushed out of the resin tank. 4. Refill: The brine tank is refilled with water to create the brine solution for the next regeneration cycle. When to Regenerate/Culligan water softeners are often equipped with automatic regeneration systems, meaning they regenerate on a pre-set schedule or based on water usage. However, there are times when you might need to manually initiate a regeneration cycle. After a Power Outage: Power outages can sometimes disrupt the softener's programming, requiring a manual regeneration to ensure it's functioning correctly. Increased Water Usage: If you've had a period of unusually high water consumption (e.g., guests staying over, filling a swimming pool), the softener may need to regenerate more frequently. Changes in Water Hardness: If you notice signs of hard water, such as soap scum or dry skin, it could indicate that the softener isn't regenerating properly or that the water hardness has increased. Maintenance: After performing maintenance on the softener, such as cleaning the brine tank, a manual regeneration is often recommended. How to Manually Regenerate Your Culligan Softener: The process for manually regenerating a Culligan water softener can vary slightly depending on the model. However, the general steps are usually similar: 1. Locate the Control Panel: The control panel is typically located on the top of the softener unit. 2. Find the Regeneration Button: Look for a button labeled "Regen," "Manual Regen," or something similar. The specific wording may vary depending on your model. 3. Initiate Regeneration: Press and hold the regeneration button for a few seconds. The softener should begin the regeneration cycle. 4. Monitor the Cycle: The regeneration cycle can take several hours to complete. Avoid using water during this time to ensure the softener can regenerate effectively. 5. Verify Completion: Once the cycle is complete, the softener should return to its normal operating mode. Refer to your Culligan water softener owner's manual for specific instructions for your model. The manual will provide detailed information on the location of the regeneration button and any unique steps required for your softener. Resetting Your Culligan Water Softener/Resetting your Culligan water softener can address various issues, such as error codes, incorrect settings, or a malfunctioning control panel. 1. Consult Your Manual: Before attempting to reset your softener, review your owner's manual for specific instructions. 2. Locate the Reset Button (If Applicable): Some Culligan models have a dedicated reset button. If your softener has one, press and hold it for a few seconds. 3. Unplug the Softener: If there is no reset button, unplug the softener from the power outlet for about 10-15 minutes. This will often reset the electronic components. 4. Plug the Softener Back In: After waiting, plug the softener back into the power outlet. 5. Reprogram the Settings: After resetting, you may need to reprogram the softener's settings, such as the time of day, water hardness level, and regeneration schedule. Maintaining Your Culligan Water Softener/Regular maintenance is crucial for ensuring the longevity and efficiency of your Culligan water softener. Check the Salt Level Regularly: Ensure that the brine tank is adequately filled with salt. Typically, the salt level should be above the water level. Clean the Brine Tank: Periodically clean the brine tank to remove salt buildup and sediment. This can help prevent clogs and ensure proper brine solution formation. Inspect the Venturi Valve: The venturi valve is responsible for drawing brine into the resin tank during regeneration. Check it regularly for clogs or damage. Monitor for Salt Bridges: Salt bridges are hard crusts that can form in the brine tank, preventing the salt from dissolving properly. Break up any salt bridges you find. Replace the Resin Beads: Over time, the resin beads in the softener will lose their effectiveness. Consult your owner's manual for recommended replacement intervals. Professional Servicing: Consider having your Culligan water softener professionally serviced at least once a year. A technician can inspect the system, identify potential problems, and perform necessary maintenance. Troubleshooting Common Issues/Even with proper maintenance, you may encounter issues with your Culligan water softener. Here are some common problems and potential solutions: Hard Water: If you notice signs of hard water, such as soap scum or dry skin, it could indicate that the softener is not regenerating properly, the salt level is too low, or the resin beads are exhausted. Excessive Salt Usage: Excessive salt usage can be caused by a malfunctioning control valve, a leak in the brine line, or an incorrect regeneration setting. No Water Softening: If the softener is not softening water at all, it could be due to a power outage, a clogged venturi valve, or a problem with the control panel. Error Codes: If the control panel displays an error code, consult your owner's manual for troubleshooting steps. A Final Thought on Water Softener Care/Maintaining your Culligan water softener is an investment in the long-term performance of your appliance and the overall quality of your water. By understanding the regeneration process, knowing how to reset the system, and following a regular maintenance schedule, you can ensure that your softener continues to provide soft, clean water for years to come. Frequently Discussed Topics/How often should I add salt to my Culligan water softener? The frequency of adding salt depends on your water usage and the size of your brine tank. Generally, you should check the salt level at least once a month and add salt when it's below the halfway mark. Q: How do I clean my Culligan water softener brine tank? To clean the brine tank, first, remove any remaining salt. Then, scrub the inside of the tank with a mild detergent and water. Rinse thoroughly and refill with salt. It's best to do this annually, or more often if you notice a lot of sediment. Q: What does it mean when my Culligan water softener displays an error code? A: Error codes indicate a specific problem with the softener. Consult your owner's manual to identify the meaning of the error code and follow the recommended troubleshooting steps. If you're unable to resolve the issue, contact a Culligan service technician. Does your morning shower water feel uncomfortable on your skin? It may be time to reset your Culligan Water Softener and adjust the regenerate settings. Here are the steps to properly reset the regeneration cycle on your water softener. Water softeners should transform a harsh shower to a skin-friendly one Quickly Reset & Regenerate Your Culligan Water Softener: Press and hold the "REGEN" button on your unit for 3 seconds or until you hear a beep/Press the up or down buttons to change the regeneration time/Press the Check Mark button to save the time/When the display says "DAYS", press the up or down arrows to adjust time between the regeneration cycles/Press the Check Mark button to save the time/When the display says "IRON", press the up or down arrows to tell the system the amount of iron in the incoming water supply./Press the Check Mark button to save the changes/Or - Bypass the set schedule by holding "REGEN" for 5 seconds. Are you seeing chalky deposits in your sink or on your dishes? Does the water in your shower feel different? These can be signs that your water softener is clogged and needs to be adjusted. The filtration system in your Culligan unit responsible for removing the hard mineral deposits from the water coming into your home. First, check the salt in your brine solution. Do you need to add another salt bag or two? If you don't have enough salt added, your filtration system isn't getting the proper mixture. Once you've checked this off your list, the problem may be in your regeneration process. This process starts when the pump moves water backward through the treatment element to remove any sediment. The regeneration then happens when the softener pulls the salt brine from a nearby tank and pushes it backward through the treatment element to clean out unwanted minerals and flush them out the drain. Once this process is complete, the salt brine is subsequently flushed out so the cleaned treatment element is ready to treat water again. The salt tank is then refilled with water to prepare more salt brine for the next cycle. The entire process takes up to an hour and a half. Your water softener is typically set to automatically run overnight. However, if you need to change this for whatever reason, here's how you can restructure the settings. 1. Press and hold the "REGEN" button on your unit for 3 seconds or until you hear a beep In order to locate the system buttons, find your owner manual or look up the manual online. The control panel should be located at the top of the unit and look similar to the figure below. Instead of up and down arrows, you may have "+" and "-" on your unit. There may also be a "Check Mark" button instead of 2. Press the up or down buttons to change the regeneration time The default setting for regeneration is typically at 2 a.m. To change this, shift to the desired time by pressing the up and down arrows. Once you're complete, press the Check Mark button to save the time. 3. When the display says "DAYS", press the up or down arrows to adjust time between the regeneration cycles Adjust the time between regeneration cycles by pressing the up and down arrows when the display says "DAYS". Once you've selected your desired timeline, press the Check Mark button to save. 4. When the display says "HARD", press the up or down arrows to adjust the hardness setting. Not only can this make your showers uncomfortable, but it can also lead to stiff clothes from the wash, buildup in your pipes and faucets, and affect the taste of your tap water. Your water's hardness should be less than 7 grains per gallon, according to the Minnesota Department of Health. After you've adjusted the hardness level per the owner's manual instructions, press the Check Mark button to save the new settings. 5. When the display says "IRON", press the up or down arrows to tell the system the amount of iron in the incoming water supply. Adjusting the Iron setting in your water softener system indicates how much iron is in the incoming water supply. Iron can lead to many issues for your house including plumbing problems, poor water taste and can even be linked to particular health issues. Your owner's manual will have more information on how to properly balance the iron in your water. After you've adjusted the iron level for your water softener, press the Check Mark button to save the new setting. > Bypass the set schedule by holding "REGEN" for 5 seconds. If you're looking to restart the regeneration process immediately, simply hold the REGEN button for 5 seconds. This will begin the regeneration cycle with the hardness and iron settings that are currently on the system. Trying to adjust the settings on your Culligan Water Softener may seem daunting if you've never had experience with this kind of system before. If you've had a regular handyman take care of these steps or a landlord checking in regularly, the process may at first appear complicated. However, resetting and regenerating your Culligan Water Softener is something that typically takes up less than half an hour of your day. To avoid plumbing problems, uncomfortable water and metallic tasting tap water, review these quick and easy steps to adjust the regeneration process. This will help your living space feel more comfortable for you and your household. For more information on similar household systems, check out our other How To articles here! Does your morning shower water feel uncomfortable on your skin? It may be time to reset your Culligan Water Softener and adjust the regenerate settings. Here are the steps to properly reset the regeneration cycle on your water softener. 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The regeneration cycle for water softener systems is based on the hardness (amount of limestone) of the water. The technician who installs the softener will calculate how often the system needs to be regenerated and program it to run on a regular basis—typically when the water hardness is at 50 to 75 percent—but you can manually reset the system. Follow the instructions in the owner's manual to reset the time (if necessary). Check that the display says "tor" for Time of Regeneration. The system defaults to 2:00 a.m. unless a time had previously been scheduled. Press "+" or "-" to change the regeneration time in half hour increments. Then press the Status button to save the new time. Choose the number of days between regeneration cycles. When the display reads "DAYS", press "+" or "-" to adjust, then press Status to save your new settings. Change the hardness setting by pressing "+" or "-" when "HARD" appears on the display. Then press Status to save the new settings. The hardness setting monitors the amount of minerals in the incoming water supply and adjusts the system to properly maintain the desired softness. Change the iron setting by pressing "+" or "-" when "IRON" appears on the display, then press Status to save the new settings. The iron setting tells the softener system how much iron is in the incoming water supply. Override the schedule by pressing the regen button for five seconds to start the regeneration process immediately. You should hear the motor start to turn. If the system is in delay mode, press and release the regen button to schedule a delayed regeneration cycle. Press again to turn it off. Contact your Culligan service technician if you are unable to reset the regeneration cycle yourself, or if the system is not functioning properly. Do not allow water in the softener system to freeze. Culligan water softeners are meant to be used on potable water only. If the water supply becomes contaminated, follow all municipal instructions (such as boiling), press the red knob on the back of the softener to deactivate the device, then schedule an appointment to have the system sanitized. Water softener system Owner's manual (optional) Water softeners, or filters, remove minerals like limestone and iron that may be in your water supply. The system cleans itself by regenerating—flushing sediment out of the basin and down the drain, then pulling more brine from the salt storage tank. The regeneration cycle for water softener systems is based on the hardness (amount of limestone) of the water. The technician who installs the softener will calculate how often the system needs to be regenerated and program it to run on a regular basis—typically when the water hardness is at 50 to 75 percent—but you can manually reset the system. Follow the instructions in the owner's manual to reset the time (if necessary). 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You may hear a beep or see a light flashing to indicate that the reset is complete. 5. Turn On the Water Supply: Once the reset is complete, turn the water supply back on. 6. Re-program the Softener (Optional): If necessary, re-program the softener with your desired settings, such as water hardness level and regeneration schedule. 7. Check for Leaks: Carefully inspect the softener for any leaks or unusual noises. No Response from the Reset Button: Check if the reset button is damaged or stuck. Ensure that the water supply is turned off. Contact Culligan customer support for assistance. Water Still Not Softening/Verify that the softener is plugged in and receiving power. Check the bypass valve to ensure it is in the "Service" position. Test the water hardness using a test kit to confirm if the softener is working. Advanced Reset Options/Factory Reset: A factory reset restores the softener to its original default settings. This is recommended if you experience persistent issues or want to start fresh. Follow the same reset steps as above, but hold the reset button for 15-20 seconds. Manual Regeneration: If your softener is equipped with a manual regeneration feature, you can initiate a regeneration cycle to reset the system. Consult your softener's user manual for specific instructions. To maintain optimal performance of your Culligan water softener, follow these tips: Regularly check and clean the salt tank. Inspect the resin bed for any signs of damage or contamination. Replace the filter cartridge as recommended by the manufacturer. Schedule professional maintenance to ensure the softener is operating efficiently. By following these steps, you can effectively reset your Culligan water softener and restore its optimal functionality. A well-maintained water softener provides numerous benefits, including improved water quality, reduced scale buildup, and extended appliance lifespan. Regularly resetting and maintaining your softener will ensure a continuous supply of soft, clean water for your home. Top Questions Asked/How often should I reset my Culligan water softener? It's generally recommended to reset your softener every 6-12 months. Q: What are the signs that my water softener needs resetting? A: Hard water, reduced water flow, and increased water consumption can indicate the need for a reset. Q: Can I reset my water softener without turning off the water supply? A: It's not advisable to reset the softener without turning off the water supply as this can lead to flooding. If you have a Culligan water softener, you need to know how to reset the water softener and start the regeneration process as needed. Water softeners will not function properly if they are not reset and regenerated as needed. This process is to ensure that you will get the results you are looking for. To reset and regenerate your Culligan water softener, you need to determine if you are regenerating for a future time period or right now. You will select the checkmark button, hold it for the appropriate amount of time, and the system will begin the regeneration process. You may find that your water doesn't feel as soft coming out of the faucets or you are having mineral buildup around your faucets. There are several reasons why you may want to regenerate your water softener system and it is important to do so. The guide below will help you determine what to look for when deciding if you should regenerate your water softener and instructions to follow to complete the process. OEM Culligan is the primary source of this information and is exactly what needs to be done to complete the reset and regeneration cycle. Many people might wonder if they need a water softener, and if they do, what is the purpose of having one. If you live in an area with a hard water supply, a water softener is a good idea. How do you know if you live in an area with hard water? A good starting point is if you use well water, it is going to be hard water. According to the US Geological Survey, most Americans have hard water within their home. There are certain levels of water hardness that can be experienced. The US Geological Survey determines the level of water hardness based on the amount of calcium carbonate that is found in the water. These levels are referred to as parts per million (ppm), mg/L, or grains per gallon (gpg.) Soft- Soft water is defined as water with levels of 0-60 ppm, 0-60 mg/L, and 0-3.5 gpg. Moderately Hard- Moderately hard water is defined as water with levels of 61-120 ppm, 61-120 mg/L, and 3.56-7.01 gpg. Hard- Hard water is defined as water with levels of 121-180 ppm, 121-180 mg/L, and 7.06-10.51 gpg. Very Hard- Very hard water is defined as water with levels of >180 ppm, >180 mg/L, and >10.51 gpg. A water softener, often called an ion exchange unit, is used to remove certain minerals from your water. The two main minerals are calcium and magnesium. Hard water can cause many problems within a home so if you live in an area with hard water, a water softener is extremely important. Hard water can cause soap scum residue in bathtubs and washing machines, dry and itchy skin, spotty glasses and dishes, mineral buildup around faucets, and reduced efficiency of certain hot water appliances. There are many benefits to installing a water softener in your home. These include softer skin, healthier hair and scalp, easier on your pipes and appliances, cleaner dishes, and removal of unwanted tastes and odors in your water. There are some signs that can indicate that your water softener needs a reset and regeneration. Hard Water Spots Appear- You might start noticing hard water spots appearing on your glasses as well as your shower door. Along with water spots, mineral buildup can also indicate that your unit is not functioning properly. Water Feels Different- If you are used to soft water in your home, you will know almost instantly if the water that is coming through your plumbing is not soft. You may notice that when you shower you are left with film on your skin from your soap. Your skin might also begin to feel dry and very itchy. Water Pressure Changes- If you suddenly notice that the water pressure in your home has changed, this could indicate a clog or problem with your water softener system. If you notice any of these things happening within your home, a simple way to check on your water softener system before going through the reset and regeneration process is to check the salt levels in your brine system of your water softener. If you notice that you need to add more salt, this can be a simple fix. The process of regeneration is needed in order for your water softener to continue to function properly and be able to remove the unwanted minerals from your water. The resin beads can only catch a certain amount of minerals before they are unable to work effectively. This is when a saltwater solution is needed to flush through the entire system. The salt mixture will be pushed through each chamber of the water softener and in turn the entire system will be flushed clean. This will allow the resin beads to then pull the minerals from your hard water again and only soft water will be pushed through your plumbing. If you are wanting to set the regeneration for a future time, you will use the process for a delayed regeneration. When you are on the home screen, you will push the checkmark button. Hold it for at least 3 seconds and then release the button. The screen should display the regeneration status. The system should show the scheduled regeneration time on the screen, which will likely say "REGEN TONITE" with a date and time. If you are wanting to cancel a delayed regeneration that is scheduled, you will then push the checkmark button for 3 seconds and release. The screen should display "REGEN OFF", indicating that the regeneration process has been canceled. This process is best used if you are wanting to start the regeneration process right then. When you are on the home screen, press the checkmark button and hold it for at least 10 seconds. The screen should now display the regeneration status. It should show "REGEN NOW" and the system should start the regeneration process immediately. If the system is successfully starting the regeneration process, it should quickly read "REGENERATING." If you are wanting to bypass the regeneration process in your water softener, there is a way to do so. Certain water softeners will allow the bypass procedure, which is beneficial if you are using water for solely outdoor use. You do not need softened water for gardening or cleaning outdoors. From the home screen, you will push the downward arrow button. Press the downward arrow and checkmark button to select the manual mode. You will then see several options including "BYPASS." Press the checkmark button to select bypass time period. The screen will then display the manual bypass time periods. Press the checkmark and the up and down arrows to select the time period. Choose between 30, 60, 90, and 180 minutes. Press the checkmark button to make the final selection. Press the "XX" to return to the home screen. Culligan offers multiple types of water softeners to fit the specific needs of your home and your lifestyle. It is important to take the time to research and consider what option would work best for you depending on the number of people within your household and how much water you typically use. Culligan created the Aqualast water softener to make owning a water softener the easiest experience possible. This water softener has the ability to reduce operating costs by up to 46% due to its efficiency. This water softener allows you to keep track of everything through the Culligan Connect app. You can set personal goals for water usage, while also checking the status of your water softener system. The app will also track the salt levels within your system and let you know when issues arise. The tank is built to last as it resists UV rays, rust, and corrosion, making it an excellent choice from Culligan. Similar to the Aqualast water softener, the Culligan high-efficiency water softener is made to reduce costs by up to 46% as well. Although it does not work with the Culligan Connect app, it has been labeled as one of the world's most efficient water softeners. This water softener only regenerates when it is needed, which can be useful in certain households. You also have the option to bypass the water softener system. This will allow you to not use softened water for outdoor usage if you wish. The tank is also resistant to UV rays, rust, and corrosion. This particular system uses a non-corrosive valve versus a typical rotary valve system. The Aqualast select series water softener offers the ability to soften your water while providing a more affordable option. Although this system is not as efficient as other Culligan water softening systems, it allows you to save your pipes and offers all of the same benefits of utilizing a water softener. A Culligan water softener will regenerate on its own. It can regenerate at pre-set times or when the system acknowledges that it needs to regenerate. If the system is regenerating on its own, it will typically regenerate every 3 to 7 days depending on your water usage and it typically takes approximately 90 minutes to complete the entire process. It is important to have a water softener that fits the specific needs of your home. If you have a water softener that is too small, it will regenerate too frequently. If the water softener is too large, then it may regenerate infrequently but will require more salt than what should be used. A common concern that some people will have is the amount of water that is required to regenerate a water softener. While this depends on the water softener itself and how large it is, typically it will use 35 to 65 gallons of water to complete the regeneration process. The amount of water used to regenerate the system will be dependent upon the size of the water softener, but also how hard your water is. The harder the water is, the more quickly the system will have a buildup and need to regenerate. If the system is having a large buildup, then it will take more water to flush the water softener. However, the important thing to remember is that even though it is using a lot of water to regenerate, this is saving you money from the damage that hard water can do. If you are experiencing some of the symptoms of hard water, you may be wanting to test your water yourself. There are at-home tests that can give you a good indication, but also ways to test your water to get absolute levels of hardness that are occurring in your water. If you are wanting to do a simple at-home test, you can use a simple empty water bottle with a cap. Fill the bottle 1/4 full of water. Add a few drops of liquid soap and shake the bottle vigorously. If the shaken bottle has no bubbles and the water is cloudy, then you have hard water. Hard water will not allow soap to bubble up as it should. Another at-home test that is similar and easy is to simply wash your hands in your sink with liquid hand soap. If your soap does not seem to bubble when you rub it between your hands, then you have hard water. There are test kits that can be purchased at most home improvement stores as well as online. These test kits are fairly simple to use at home and can provide accurate results within a matter of minutes. Typically, you will just need to fill a cup with water from one of your faucets and place the test strip in the water for a recommended amount of time. After the amount of time has passed, you can read the results on the test strip. This will give you a more accurate reading of the water hardness levels within your plumbing system at home. If you do not want to do the testing yourself at home, there are many companies, including Culligan that can send an expert to your home to do the water testing. They can typically do the testing in your home and let you know immediately about the levels of water hardness, chlorine, iron, and other simple tests. However, if you want more in-depth testing to be done, an expert can send a sample of your water to a lab. In the lab, they can test your water for bacteria, lead, copper, and many other contaminants. There are a few different instances where testing your water is beneficial. If any of the below items applies to you, there would be a good idea to have your water tested, regardless of you use at home water test or have an expert come into your home to do the testing for you. Moving- If you have recently moved, it might be a good idea to have your water tested, especially if you are in a new area and you do not have much knowledge about the water in the area. Well Water- If you live in an area where you use well water, it is always a good idea to have your water tested. Water that comes from a well is not cared for like public water systems, therefore it is important to make sure that the well water is clean and safe for consumption as well as check the hardness levels. Taste or Odor Issues- You may notice that your water smells or tastes different. This is a good indication that you need to get your water tested. Not only is it a good idea to check the hardness levels, but if you are noticing taste or odor changes, then you should have your water checked for any contaminants. Buildup- Buildup of any sort indicates that there is something going on with your water. This could be water spots on your dishes, scum buildup in your tubs and showers, or even buildup in your washing machine. These are indicators of hard water and mean that your water needs to be checked.