

## Dial It Back...

Help us do our part to protect our waterways and environment by "dialing back" the amount of time your softener regenerates and the frequency of those regenerations.

If you have any questions, or need assistance, please contact the Village of Frankfort Utility Department at (815) 469-2177.

For additional information visit the Hickory Creek Watershed [www.hickorycreekwatershed.org](http://www.hickorycreekwatershed.org)

Awareness

Community

Environment

## It's In Your Hands



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## Dial it Back...

*How Your Water Softener  
Affects the Environment*



## Frankfort Water Supply

The Frankfort water supply contains hardness minerals (calcium and magnesium) which are typically treated with a home water softener. A modern, efficient water softener reduces calcium and magnesium from the water supply. Salt is used in the system to provide



periodic revitalization and to provide soft water for daily needs.

The typical analysis of Frankfort's water taken after the Village's iron removal filtration process shows the following:

Hardness:	31-36 Grains Per Gallon
Iron:	.02 Milligrams Per Liter
pH:	7.8

## The Issue

The Illinois Environmental Protection Agency has issued a violation to the Village of Frankfort citing effluent violations at the Village of Frankfort's west wastewater treatment facility. This violation is specific to the amount of chloride (salt) released into Hickory Creek. Excessive salt may affect wildlife and plants now and in the future. The IEPA has identified chloride as a potential cause of impairment to aquatic life.

**This violation is not a human health hazard and does not affect drinking water.**

Salt from water softeners enters Frankfort's wastewater and discharges into waterways, such as Hickory Creek.

The Village of Frankfort continues to meet and work with the IEPA on this issue; however, it is important for residents to understand the critical nature of this violation.

## What Can I Do to Help?

### "Dial it Back..."

Over the past ten years, the Village of Frankfort has installed iron filters that have improved the quality of water delivered to your home. The hardness and iron content of your water today is less than it was in the past. There is good reason to adjust your softening unit to correspond to the lower mineral levels of today. Follow your water softener's user manual to reduce the time your water softener regenerates and the frequency of those regenerations. You will save money on salt purchases. You will carry less salt to the basement and you will help the environment by reducing the amount of salt that enters Hickory Creek.

