



Pat Quinn, Governor
LaMar Hasbrouck, MD, MPH, Director

525-535 West Jefferson Street • Springfield, Illinois 62761-0001 • www.idph.state.il.us

To: Chad Moorman
Private Sewage Program Manager

From: Justin DeWitt, P.E., LEED AP
Chief of General Engineering

Date: March 12, 2014

RE: Guidance for Installing a Non-High Efficiency Water Softener Coincident with a Private Sewage Disposal System

The Illinois Department of Public Health (IDPH) acknowledges that water softeners installed in buildings subject to the Illinois Private Sewage Disposal Code (77 IL Admin Code 905) ("PSDC") must comply with Section 905.20 b) 5). That section provides direction as to the ultimate disposal of backwash water; however, it is not prescriptive as to the manner in which such backwash will be transported from the water softener to the disposal point.

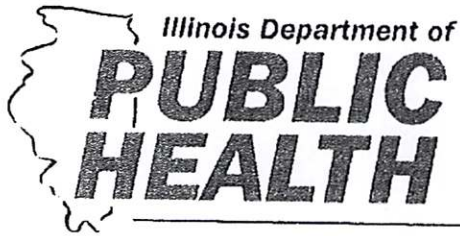
For those occurrences where installation of a water softener system requires its backwash to be discharged in accordance with Section 905.20 b) 5) the following guidance is to be implemented.

Water softener backwash (mineral laden water flushed from the system) should be discharged to a dedicated 2" minimum diameter PVC Schedule 40 pipe system, via a fixed air gap, that conveys backwash to a direct connection to the septic system effluent pipe, downstream of the septic tank, or to the supply pipe of a separate subsurface seepage system. The backwash piping system should be configured such that the flood level rim of the receptor is at a higher elevation than the highest invert elevation of the pipe or system receiving the backwash. The backwash piping system should be trapped and vented in the building to prevent the accumulation of any gases and promote proper flow in the backwash piping system.

For enforcement purposes, IDPH does not consider a water softener backwash piping system to be a "building drain" or "building sewer" as those terms are defined in 77 IL Admin Code 890, as water softeners and their installation are not subject to the Illinois Plumbing Licensing Law (225 ICS 320/2).

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March 14, 2014

Mr. David Loveday
Water Quality Association
4151 Naperville Road
Lisle, Illinois 60532-3696

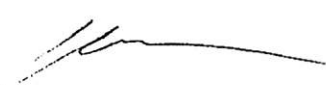
Dear Mr. Loveday:

The Department has reviewed your request to approve the discharge of an NSF Standard 44 certified water softeners systems to the main building drain of a structure, in lieu of a separate building drain as required in Section 905.20 of the Private Sewage Disposal Code. The Department will approve your request based on the following:

1. Only water softeners systems that have been tested and certified to comply with NSF Standard 44 may be given this approval.
2. The connection to the main building drain shall be via an indirectly connection.
3. Approval of this system by the Illinois Department of Public Health is limited to design and is in no way intended to guarantee the proper function of the water softener system.
4. The water softeners systems shall be maintained and serviced per the manufactures requirements to maintain the NSF Standard 44 certification.

If you have any questions, contact me at (217) 524-4137 or chad.moorman@illinois.gov.

Sincerely,



Chad Moorman, LEHP
Program Manager
Private Sewage Disposal Program
Division of Environmental Health

cc: Regional Office

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