

MUD 18 Newsletter
January 2011
www.mcmud18.com

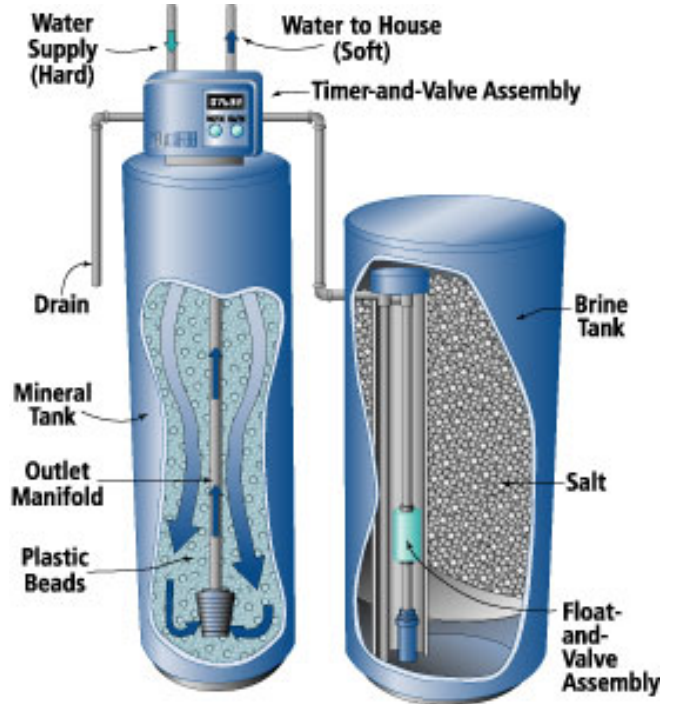
Tips for Water Softener Maintenance:

Some residents have reported malfunctions of their water softener systems. In some cases, expensive repairs to the home plumbing were necessary. Often the culprit is the deterioration of the media cylinder that holds the plastic resin beads. See the diagram. If you have a water softener, the following may be signs that it needs servicing:

1. Evidence of "sand" particles in sink, lavatories, tubs, etc.
2. Low water pressure in your home that is not being experienced by others in your area. This may develop slowly over a period of time. To determine if low pressure is being caused by your water softener, put your water softener on bypass. If the pressure goes back to normal, the water softener is the culprit.
3. Five years in service without replacement of the media cylinder. Some units do not last that long.

Here are some tips that may help you avoid an expensive repair:

1. Clean your water softener semi-annually. Consult your owner's manual or hire a technician for your brand of softener.
2. Check your manual to ensure that you are using the correct product and in the right amounts for your softener. Cheaper products may not be the best option.
3. If your water softener is indoors, make sure your bypass valves' piping is located near the top of the water softener. When pipes are at the bottom of the unit, if pressure builds up, the valves could fail and cause a problem.
4. If you are not familiar with the technical operation of these units, a qualified service rep can help you.



Create User ID And Password

Register for Online Account access. Online Account access enables you to manage your account online, 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.

Account Number * - - - District Code *

Please enter the information Exactly as it appears on your latest bill.

Name *

Service Address *

User ID * Must be more than 5 characters long

Password * Must be more than 6 characters long

Reconfirm Password *

Email *

Re-enter Email *

*** Required Fields**

Special Email Alerts
 Sign up to receive email alerts about your Account

Payment Due Yes No

Payment is Past Due Yes No

Email Bill Notification Yes No

Online Billing Will Be Soon Be Available to MUD 18 Customers:

In our August/September Newsletter, we announced we were working to provide the option for online invoicing and/or payment. Customers will be able to go to the MUD 18 website and select to receive their monthly bill by email; the default will be to continue to receive the bills by US mail. Customers will also be able to select among four payment options:

1. payment by writing a check each month,
2. automatic direct draft,
3. online or automatic credit card or
4. online or automatic debit card.

The first two options are already available; the other two will be new options. We expect this service to be available during this first quarter of 2011. Look for the instructions on how to access online billing in our February Newsletter.

Update on Enhanced Recycling Service: During the first week of January, MUD 18 transitioned to an enhanced recycling service. The delivery of the new containers took longer than anticipated - we appreciate your patience during the process. The list of materials that can be recycled has been greatly expanded to include glass (including wine bottles) and additional plastics (codes 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 7). Code 6 is Styrofoam and cannot be recycled at this time. The lids on the new recyclable containers have a handy table of items that can be accepted. Because of the higher volume and weight of recyclable waste, larger containers on wheels have been provided. Since Waste Management uses automated trucks to pick-up and empty these containers, the smaller tubs can no longer be serviced. With the expanded list of recyclable items, many residents are realizing they can downsize their containers for regular garbage. If you have limited garage space, you may want to consider locating your recycle container in an outside area that is not visible from your street and is not a nuisance to your neighbors. Recycling service will be on Saturdays. Regular garbage service remains on Monday and Friday. Some residents are not happy with 3 days of garbage service. During this next year, MUD 18 Board will be working with Waste Management to improve the schedule.



Recycling has many benefits. Recycling reprocesses used materials into new products. Recycling saves our natural resources, conserves energy, reduces pollution and greatly reduces the expansion of landfills. We appreciate the high interest in recycling in Bentwater.

Important Reminder: All homeowners are requested to put their trash containers away as soon as possible after their trash has been picked up. This is important to street safety and the overall appearance of our community. In some cases, neighbors can help their neighbors to move the containers away from the street. Everyone's cooperation is appreciated.

Water Pressure Outside of Norm: On October 26 one of the pressure tanks at the MUD 18 water well site malfunctioned and caused a brief increase in water pressure. The highest pressure recorded at the water plant was 93 psi. Following this event, four homeowners reported water damage to Hays Utility due the failure of pipes, tubing or fittings.

The District's rate order requires that all home plumbing meet the State Plumbing Code. The State of Texas has adopted the International Plumbing Code (IPC) which sets minimum requirements for plumbing systems in their design and function. Among other things, the IPC requires all plumbing parts and practices comply with a 120psi rating. Old or worn parts that no longer meet the code should be replaced. All plumbing repairs should meet this code. Fixtures and fittings are available that are rated up to 150 psi. If you have any questions or repair needs, consult a qualified plumber who can ensure that all plumbing repairs and equipment meet the IPC.

If you feel you experienced a problem caused by this event, contact Hays Utility @ 936-588-1166.

Need to report a Problem? Don't assume the problem has already been identified or reported. If you observe a water leak, sewer odor, discolored water, open manholes, alarms are sounding, or other problems, please help us by calling:

Hays Utility Service @ 936-588-1166.

Hays has someone in Bentwater every day, seven days a week. They can and will respond 24 hours a day. Their general office hours are from 8:00AM to 4:30PM Monday through Friday.

Meetings Open to the Public:

Our regularly scheduled monthly meetings are the **2nd Tuesdays at 2:30PM** in the Country Club Board Room. Meetings are open to the public. The agenda is posted on our web site and the message board in the breezeway entrance to the Country Club Grill near the Golf Pro-shop.

Sincerely,
Your MUD Board:

Lou Tichacek	President	597-7010
Linda Pierce	Vice President	597-5463
Roy Champagne	Treasurer	597-8786
Joe Constantino	Secretary	597-8029
Chris Uzelmeier	Assistant Secretary	449-5198