# Physical Water Softener Systems: in Brief by Julia Roger

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There are four different categories through which hard water gets softened. In each of the method, limescale gets reduced or eliminated. However, all these methods share some sort of advantages and disadvantages.

Physical water softener systems help in altering the properties of hard water through physical process to reduce or eliminate limescale formation. They are available in 3 different types namely, magnetic, electrolytic, and electric.

Electrolytic types are mostly in-line devices that are plumbed into a water system. End connectors should have a measurement of around 15 mm, 22 mm, or even 28 mm to suit pipe work. In an electrolytic based container system, two different types of metals are present that act as anode and cathode. Zinc is probably the metal that works as anode, while copper acts as cathode. It is the electrolytic current which flows from the cathode to anode. This causes the metal ions to get dissolved into water. The major advantage is pricing. Electrolytic scale inhibitor are extremely cheap in price and this helps in affordable purchasing procedure. Limescale problems get reduced by a greater way. As a result, the treated water becomes safer to consume. However, there is a disadvantage also. These systems need to be replaced on a periodical basis to experience the highest level of protection. This can be quite a costly affair.

Magnetic type comes in two forms. Either they camp onto outside of pipe work or else they get fitted in-line with pipe work in the exact ways like that of electrolytic based softeners. The functioning of magnetic softener systems is very similar to that of electronic ones. However, they use magnetic field in order to alter characteristics of minerals that produce scale in water.  In treated water, scale particles normally lose on their ability while adhering to each other and also to boilers, pipes, as well internal surfaces.  The low cost may well be their major advantage. Since no electrical power is required, hence cost of running the device is virtually zero. They are easy to install. However, these devices are suitable only for single appliances. They need to be replaced occasionally for enhanced performance.

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