



## Water softeners a personal preference

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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(Bellevue, WI) With Lake Michigan water flowing to the Central Brown County Water

Authority communities full-time, a commonly asked question is, “Is it necessary for me to continue to use a water softener?”

“The simple answer is that’s it’s an individual preference,” said Authority Manager Dave Vaclavik. “The water is definitely of much better quality than what residents of the member communities are accustomed to, but water softness is truly a personal preference. What’s soft to some may not be to others.”

If you’re not sure whether the Authority’s water is soft enough for your preference without the use of a water softener, Vaclavik suggests some easy ways to compare the difference.

1. If you’re currently using a water softener, contact your vendor and get their recommendation.
2. Most water softeners have a bypass valve that will allow you to compare water that has been softened to water that has not.
3. If you don’t have a bypass valve, another option is to allow your water softener to run out of salt and then compare the water against the water when your softener is functioning.
4. Most softeners are not connected to the outside water facets so test the water from your outside faucet from against water from your kitchen sink.
5. Visit a friend or family member that is on the same water system that does not use a water softener.

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While softness is a personal preference, a water quality comparison between the Authority's Lake Michigan water verses the member community's well water highlights the new water supplies quality improvements.

## Comparative Water Quality Chart

Water quality by community compared to Authority water

Water contaminants	Authority Water	Allouez well water	Bellevue well water	De Pere well water	Howard well water	Lawrence well water	Ledgeview well water
Total hardness (mg/L)	130	220-290	488-636	258-283	248-273	253	266
Total dissolved Solids (mg/L)	110	350-480	496-1330	342-466	284-291	296	444
Alkalinity (mg/L)	100	150-180	157-161	149-188	227-282	207	143
Fluoride (mg/L)	0.9-1.2	2.2-2.6	1.7-1.8	1.8-2.1	-	-	-

“As you can see, our new Lake Michigan water supply is far better in quality than is the water from the individual communities’ wells,” Vaclavik said. In some categories, the reduction has been significant. “Since testing the new system began, we’ve received quite a few calls from residents who’ve indicated they noticed a real improvement,” he added.

Board members have also received calls from residents saying that they will continue to use their water softener with the new water supply. “Softeners will further lower the hardness resulting in the need for less soap and potentially less wear and tear on appliances,” Vaclavik explained. “The decision to use a water softener is an individual matter and the Authority does not take an official position on whether to use one or not.”

Another significant benefit of the Authority’s water is that the microfiltration system used to filter the water from Lake Michigan also filters out cryptosporidium, a potentially life threatening parasite commonly found in lakes and rivers.

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If you have questions regarding your water quality or would like additional information regarding the Central Brown County Water Authority, please contact your local public works director or Authority Manager Dave Vaclavik. Below is the contact information.

**Public Works Contacts:**

Allouez	Craig Berndt	448-2800
Bellevue	Ron Umentum	468-5225
De Pere	Scott Thoresen	339-8095
Howard	Bob Bartelt	434-4640
Lawrence	Greg Little	336-9131
Ledgeview	Mark Pansier	336-3360
Authority	Dave Vaclavik	330-9051

*The Central Brown County Water Authority is comprised of the communities of Allouez, Bellevue, De Pere, Howard, Lawrence and Ledgeview who are working to provide a quality water supply to their residents.*

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