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*NSF International Standard /  
American National Standard*

## NSF/ANSI 44 - 2018

### Residential Cation Exchange Water Softeners



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Chair, Joint Committee on Drinking Water Treatment Units  
c/o NSF International  
789 North Dixboro Road, PO Box 130140  
Ann Arbor, Michigan 48113-0140 USA  
Phone: (734) 769-8010 Telex: 753215 NSF INTL  
Fax: (734) 769-0109  
E-mail: [info@nsf.org](mailto:info@nsf.org)  
Web: [www.nsf.org](http://www.nsf.org)

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**Residential Cation Exchange  
Water Softeners**

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Contents

1	General .....	1
1.1	Purpose.....	1
1.2	Scope.....	1
1.3	Alternate materials, design, and construction.....	1
1.4	Treatment train.....	1
2	Normative references .....	1
3	Definitions.....	2
4	Materials .....	2
4.1	Materials in contact with drinking water .....	2
4.2	Materials evaluation.....	3
4.3	Gas chromatography / mass spectroscopy (GC/MS) analysis .....	5
5	Structural performance .....	11
5.1	Structural integrity.....	11
6	Minimum performance requirements.....	17
6.1	Hazards.....	17
6.2	Waste connections.....	17
6.3	Brine tank.....	17
6.4	Operation .....	17
6.5	Performance indication .....	18
6.6	Chemical and mechanical performance .....	18
7	Elective performance claims – Test methods.....	31
7.1	Scope.....	31
7.2	Barium and radium reduction.....	34
7.3	Conformance by calculation .....	35
8	Instruction and information .....	38
8.1	Installation, operation, and maintenance instructions.....	38
8.2	Data plate.....	40
8.3	Performance data sheet .....	40
Annex A	Key elements of a certification program for drinking water treatment systems and components .....	43
A.1	Marking the product .....	43
A.2	Listing certified companies .....	43
A.3	Annual audits .....	43
A.4	Testing .....	44
A.5	Toxicological evaluation of materials formulations .....	44
A.6	Corrective action .....	44
A.7	Enforcement.....	44
A.8	Administrative review.....	44
A.9	Appeals.....	44

A.10	Complaints .....	45
A.11	Advertising .....	45
A.12	Records.....	45
A.13	Public notice.....	45
A.14	Confidentiality .....	45
Annex B	.....	47
Annex C	Evaluation methods for systems with multiple technologies – Treatment train.....	49
C.1	Requirements for the evaluation of a system containing multiple, sequential treatment technologies.....	49
C.2	Example application of treatment train option B .....	50
C.3	Example application of treatment train option C .....	51
Interpretation Annex	.....	53



## **Foreword<sup>2</sup>**

The purpose of this Standard is to establish minimum requirements for materials, design, construction, and performance of drinking water treatment units that are designed to reduce specific aesthetic-related contaminants in public or private water supplies. This Standard specifies the minimum product literature and labeling information that a manufacturer must supply to authorized representatives and system owners. Lastly, the Standard provides minimum service-related obligations that the manufacturer must extend to system owners.

This edition of the Standard contains the following revisions:

### **Issue 44**

The revision addresses inconsistent language across the scopes of the DWTU Standards and adds clarifying language on systems that include components or functions covered under other NSF Standards.

This Standard was developed by the NSF Joint Committee on Drinking Water Treatment Units using the consensus process described by the American National Standards Institute.

Suggestions for improvement of this Standard are welcome. This Standard is maintained on a Continuous Maintenance schedule and can be opened for comment at any time. Comments should be sent to Chair, Joint Committee on Drinking Water Treatment Units at [standards@nsf.org](mailto:standards@nsf.org), or c/o NSF International, Standards Department, PO Box 130140, Ann Arbor, Michigan 48113-0140, USA.

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<sup>2</sup> The information contained in this Foreword is not part of this American National Standard (ANS) and has not been processed in accordance with ANSI's requirements for an ANS. Therefore, this Foreword may contain material that has not been subjected to public review or a consensus process. In addition, it does not contain requirements necessary for conformance to the Standard.

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# NSF/ANSI Standard for Drinking Water Treatment Units – Residential Cation Exchange Water Softeners

## 1 General

### 1.1 Purpose

The purpose of this Standard is to establish minimum requirements for materials, design and construction, and performance of residential cation exchange water softeners. This Standard also specifies the minimum product literature that manufacturers shall supply to authorized representatives and owners, as well as the minimum service-related obligations that manufacturers shall extend to owners.

### 1.2 Scope

The manual, auto-initiated, and demand-initiated regeneration (DIR) residential cation exchange water softeners addressed by this Standard are designed for the reduction of specific substances that may be present in drinking water (public or private) considered to be microbiologically safe and of known quality. Systems covered under this standard are intended to reduce hardness affecting the aesthetic quality of water. The established health hazards, barium and radium, are optional performance claims addressed by this Standard. Systems with manufacturer claims that include components or functions covered under other NSF or NSF/ANSI Standards or Criteria shall conform to the applicable requirements therein. Systems covered by this Standard are not intended to be used with drinking water that is microbiologically unsafe or of unknown quality without adequate disinfection before or after the system.

NOTE — Systems that are compliant with NSF/ANSI 55 Class A or other standards that cover technologies to treat microbiologically unsafe water (e.g., US EPA *Guide Standard and Protocol for Testing Microbiological Water Purifiers* or NSF P231) are examples of demonstrating adequate disinfection before or after the system.

### 1.3 Alternate materials, design, and construction

While specific materials, design, and construction may be stipulated in this Standard, systems that incorporate alternate materials, designs, and construction may be acceptable when it is verified that such systems meet the applicable requirements.

### 1.4 Treatment train

A system that contains multiple, sequential treatment technologies for a performance claim under this Standard shall meet the applicable requirements as described in Annex C.

## 2 Normative references

The following documents contain requirements that, by reference in this text, constitute requirements of this Standard. At the time of publication, the indicated editions were valid. All of the documents are subject to revision and parties are encouraged to investigate the possibility of applying the recent editions of the documents indicated below. The most recent published edition of the document shall be used for undated references.