

# How to Put Your Water Softener in Bypass

## Types of Bypass Valves

There are 3 main types of bypass valves for water softeners. Most residential units will have either a valve that you either push in or turn to put your water softener in bypass. Commercial softeners often have a three valve bypass operation.

To find out what type of bypass valve your water softener has, take a look at the top or the back or top of your unit. Your bypass valve should be located close to where your water pipes are connected to your softener.

- A turn "to bypass" unit will have a one or two handles or knobs that you can turn
- A "push to" bypass unit will have a button that you can push in
- A lever style bypass has a lever that you can move from side to side

If you have a commercial unit, you may see three separate valves connected to the pipes that are attached to your softener.

If you are still not sure what type of bypass valve you have or where it is located, consult your owner's manual or contact your water softener company.



## Turn the handle bypass valve to stop water entering your softener

**Step 1:** Locate the large turnable bypass knob(s) or handle(s) on your unit. Depending on how it was installed, it could be on either the right or left side of your softener.

**Step 2:** Turn the knob or handle clockwise (or if there are arrows on your handles then turn in the direction of the arrows) all the way until it stops turning.

It may be stiff, especially if you haven't put your water softener in bypass before or if it has been a long time since you last did it.

**Tip:** If your handle is really hard to turn you can try turning the water on full blast in your tub or shower to release some of the water pressure going to your softener. This should make it easier to turn.

**Step 3:** Once you are finished using your hard water, simply turn your knob or handle all the way back counter-clockwise.



**Step 1:** Locate the bypass button.

**Step 2:** Firmly push in on the button until it goes all the way in. You may need to exert a lot of pressure especially if you haven't used it before or if it has been a while since your last bypass.

**Tip:** If you are having trouble pushing in the button, try turning it clockwise for one

or two rotations to loosen it up. If this doesn't work, try tapping it with a rubber mallet. Do not use a regular hammer as this may break the button.

**Step 3:** To re-activate your softener, simply press the button in fully on the opposite side of your bypass valve.



**Step 1:** Locate the level bypass valve.

**Step 2:** Move the level to bypass mode. Most units will have this written on them. If not, you simply move the lever to the opposite side of where it currently is.

**Step 3:** When you want to stop the bypass mode, then move the lever back to its original position.

Putting your water softener in bypass means that you don't want your water to go into your water softener to get softened. You want to "bypass" your water softener. So why would you want to do that?



## **Put your water softener in bypass when you are watering your lawn or garden**

There are times when you may not require soft water or you may want to conserve water and salt. Maybe you are planning to use a large amount of water and it doesn't have to be softened. For example you could be:

- Watering your lawn or garden
- Washing your car
- Filling up a pool or pond

The good news is that if you have a bypass valve, and most quality water softeners do have one, then you can choose to put your water softener in bypass and just use hard water.

Information provided by WaterSmart Systems & Plumbing.

<https://www.watersmartsystems.com/blog/how-to-put-your-water-softener-in-bypass>

