



Softener Assembly Instructions

Overview

Thank you for your water softener purchase from aQuatell. We appreciate your business and look forward to serving you in the future. These instructions are intended for water softeners which have been shipped unassembled. You'll know if these instructions are for you if your softener has arrived in pieces - typically in three boxes.

This instructional manual is intended to aid you in the physical construction of your softener. Since aQuatell sells many different types of softener valves, we have left the specific softener valve programming instructions out of this manual. Please refer to the instructions included with your valve for the steps required to program the softener once it has been put together and plumbed in place.

Before you Begin

All parts of your water softener should be located in a protected, dry, level, non-freezing area. The water softener needs to be located in very close proximity to your water main, and also needs to be located relatively close to a drain. Suitable drains include a floor drain, sump pit, washing-machine drain, or (where regulations permit) an outside downspout or gutter drain. The drain should be no farther than 15 feet from the softener.

You will need to purchase flexible ½" inside diameter plastic tubing to run from your softener to the drain. The line can be routed down to the floor or overhead. Whichever method is used please ensure that all turns are gradual to prevent kinking in the line. If your softener must be positioned more than 15 feet from a drain, we suggest that 1" line is used.

The softener you have purchased requires power in order to operate the valve. Ideally, you should position the water softener a few feet from a power outlet. aQuatell recommends that all water purification equipment, including softeners, be plugged into a Ground Fault Circuit Interrupter (GFCI) outlet.

Loading the Mineral Tank

The mineral tank is the tank that will eventually hold the softening resin. This is where the softening happens. Since the resin is shipped separately you will need to add it to the mineral tank.

Looking inside the mineral tank you will see a 1" riser tube. Once the softener is assembled it is this tube that will deliver softened water through the valve and to your home. With some softener models this tube will have a plastic plug in the end. With other models this tube will be open.

Before the resin is added to the mineral tank it is very important that this tube is sealed on the end to prevent it from filling with resin. So, if you received a model with an open tube, we recommend covering it with a piece of duct tape or something similar.

Before filling the mineral tank ensure that it is level. Occasionally during shipping the plastic boot on the bottom of the tank may be knocked loose. Make sure the mineral tank is completely seated in this boot. Once you are sure the tank is level fill the mineral tank with 6 to 12 inches of water. We are now ready to add the resin:

- Place the funnel over the opening of the resin tank
- Ensure the riser tube is centered in the tank opening
- Scoop small amounts of resin into the mineral tank ensuring that the riser tube remains centered
- Continue to add resin to the tank until all resin has been added
- Fill the tank with water until the water level is about 6" from the top of the tank
- **Remove the plastic plug or tape from the top of the riser tube**

Brush any resin from the top of the mineral tank. This is important to ensure that the valve seals properly when it is screwed onto the tank. Apply a very light coat of non-petroleum based lubricant to the top surface of the mineral tank opening. Vegetable oil works very well. This will lubricate the o-ring that seals the valve to the mineral tank. Do not apply oil anywhere else - only to the very top surface of the mineral tank opening.

Top Distributor Basket

All softeners sold by aQuatell include a small basket (or screen) that attaches to the bottom of the valve. This basket prevents softener resin from exiting the mineral tank during resin regeneration. With some models this basket will come already attached and with others it needs to be attached. The basket is attached by simply lining up the tabs on the basket to the slots on the softener valve and exerting gentle pressure until it snaps into place.

Installing the Softener Valve (head)

With the distributor basket now in place, the softener valve needs to be attached to the mineral tank. The 1" riser tube that sits in the mineral tank inserts into the softener valve through the Distributor Basket. Slowly lower the softener valve onto the mineral

tank ensuring that the riser tube is guided through the distributor basket. Continually turn the valve in a clockwise direction as you exert gentle pressure downwards forcing the riser tube into the valve. Now the valve is in position to be threaded onto the mineral tank. It's best to get some help with the next step. Have one person hold the mineral tank and another person screw the valve into place in a clockwise motion.

When installing the valve make sure that you grasp the valve body and not the valve controller. Be sure not to over-tighten the valve – turn it until snug and then give a very small extra turn. Since the valve is o-ring sealed this is all that's necessary.

Your softener is now assembled and ready to be plumbed.