

Contact: Dave Loveday  
Water Quality Association  
International Headquarters & Laboratory  
4151 Naperville Road, Lisle, Illinois 60532-3696 USA  
Email: DLoveday@wqa.org  
Telephone: 630 505 0160  
Facsimile: 630 505 9637



## WATER QUALITY ASSOCIATION PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE - MAY 13, 2008

# Water softeners remove radium

Claremont residents have easy way to protect themselves

**LISLE, Illinois** — Claremont, Minnesota, residents can eliminate all radium in their water with the use of a working water softener.

Responding to reports that radium content above state standards has been found in Claremont city wells, WQA reminds citizens of the city that water softeners easily take out radium.

“If your water is softened with an ion-exchange water softener, it’s free of radium,” stated Joe Harrison, technical director for the national water treatment association.

Harrison explained that softeners actually remove radium even before they take out elements more commonly associated with the devices, such as the hardening agents of magnesium and calcium. In addition to softeners, reverse osmosis and distillation are also effective water treatments to reduce radium.

City Administrator Bill Goldy is quoted in news reports stating the Minnesota Department of Health has notified the municipality that its well water contains 6.5 picoCuries per liter of radium. The state standard is 5.4.

Radium has been shown to cause cancer, kidney damage and birth defects.

*For more information or to find locally certified water professionals and Gold Seal certified products, visit [wqa.org](http://wqa.org). The Water Quality Association is a non-profit international trade association representing the residential, commercial, industrial and small community water treatment industry. WQA is a resource and information source, a voice for the industry, an educator of professionals, a laboratory for product testing, and a communicator with the public. WQA has more than 2,500 members nationwide.*