



MWQA Convention Set For October 24-25

MWQA's annual convention and trade show has been scheduled for Wednesday and Thursday, **October 24-25, 2018**. After reviewing other venues in the state, a decision was made to hold the event at the Holiday Inn in Lakeville again this year. With attendance at the annual event climbing, we expect to move to a larger venue, perhaps in 2019.

Among the issues we will discuss at the event are chloride discharge, revisions to water conditioning and plumbing licenses, community hardness reduction, and more. If there is a topic you would like to see addressed at our event, please let us know so we can secure speakers for educational credit.

One change we are expecting to make at this year's event is hosting a longer vendor fair and reception instead of the usual sit-down dinner. This will give the vendors more exposure time, while giving those who want to stop by after work a chance to visit the exhibits and network with others in the industry.

Watch for registration forms and more information to come soon!

Be Sure To Register Unlicensed WC Installers

Registered unlicensed water conditioning installers can perform installations in single family homes without a licensed journeyman on the property. For many companies and many jurisdictions, this might seem to codify common practice. It actually raises the bar, however.

The law specifically requires a licensed Journeyman or Master to be responsible. The work order on site should have the name of the responsible Journeyman or Master listed. That individual must be available – that means answer the phone. The Journeyman or Master must also ensure the work is done properly – for the long term. His or her name should be recorded in the contractor's files.

Print the forms IB and SL included below in this newsletter. Pass them out within your company and keep them handy!

Statutory Language on SupervisionResidential Work

Minnesota Statutes 326.555 Subdivision 1(b)

For single family residential units, when a registered unlicensed water conditioner is performing the work, a water conditioning master or journeyman must be

"available and responsible for ensuring all water conditioning work performed by the unlicensed individual complies with the applicable provisions of the plumbing and water conditioning codes, etc...."

This does not require the person providing the supervision to be on the premises, only to be "available and responsible."

Commercial Work

Minnesota Statutes 326.555 1(b)

For all other water conditioning work (e.g., multi-family and commercial), a registered unlicensed individual

"must be under the *direct supervision* of a responsible licensed water conditioning master."

Minnesota Statutes 326.50 defines "direct supervision" to mean:

"a direct supervisor is present at the location where the registered unlicensed individual is working" and is "immediately available to the registered unlicensed individual at all times for assistance and direction."

Electronic supervision is prohibited for *direct* supervision by Minnesota Statutes 326B.50 subdivision 5.

180420.1 SL

Water Conditioning InstallationsMust Do Basics

- Protect public health - downstream and upstream
- Installations should be completed with quality and appearance for long term use
- Provide value for the customer as contracted
- Work safely

Contractor Responsibility

- The water conditioning contractor, a business licensed in Minnesota, is responsible for all its activities
- Installers are responsible to know and perform all work to Minnesota Plumbing Code
- Plumbing permits must be obtained in jurisdictions where required
- Plan approval must be obtained where required
 - o DLI approves commercial plumbing changes and inspects all Minnesota licensed facilities
 - o MDH reviews water conditioning systems for federally regulated small systems

Trades People Requirements

All installation work must be done by a trades person holding a

- a) Water Conditioning Master license,
- b) Water Conditioning Journeyperson license, or an
- c) Unlicensed Water Conditioning Registration

The Minnesota Department of Industry maintains a list of valid licenses available at <https://secure.doi.state.mn.us/lookup/licensing.aspx>

The Master holding the license for the contractor is responsible for all installation activities of the company.

Commercial and multi-unit residential installations may be done by a Master, Journeyworker, or by a registered unlicensed worker when a Master or Journeyworker is on the premises directly supervising the work.

Single family residential installations may be done by a Master, Journeyworker or a registered unlicensed individual. If a registered unlicensed installer is working without a Master or Journeyworker on site, a specific Master or Journeyworker must be (1) available to the installer by phone, text messaging or otherwise contactable and (2) responsible for the work performed. The Master or Journeyworker's name should be on the installing work order and recorded by the Water Conditioning Contractor.

180420.2 IB



MPCA, MWQA Announce Project Partnership

**MINNESOTA POLLUTION
CONTROL AGENCY***By Scott Schiesser, MWQA President*

We are proud to announce a collaborative effort between the Minnesota Pollution

Control Agency and MWQA to inform citizens of our great state about chloride discharge. Brooke Asleson, the Water Pollution Prevention Coordinator for the MPCA, has worked closely with MWQA to form the Water Softening Expert Committee. Mike Herman, Mike McGowan and Scott Schiesser are a part of the committee, offering valuable insight into how our organization can partner with the MPCA.

One goal of this committee is to build a State Fair exhibit in the Eco Experience building, providing helpful information to consumers, such as how a water softener works, how to optimize the performance of current softeners, and offer helpful tips on purchasing new water treatment equipment. We may also give consumers a coupon, valid throughout the state, for a discounted home inspection to be performed by an MWQA member. Upon completion of the inspection, both organizations will provide literature containing helpful tips homeowners can use to save water and help reduce chloride discharge in their communities.

In the coming months, we will be asking MWQA members to volunteer to provide coverage at the collaborative State Fair display to make this relationship a success.



Please Pay Your 2018 Member Dues

Please check to see if you have paid your 2018 MWQA member dues. Supporting the Association through membership is the best way to get early information and assistance

with legislative and licensing issues, community softening plans, and any other issues that affect the water quality improvement industry. We'll walk you through licensing requirements and help you get your required credits for license renewal. Plus you get a listing and web link on the MWQA website! Please email Lori Jansen at info@mwqa.com if you need a new invoice, a member certificate, or a 2018 gold seal.
