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| **Hardness** (excess calcium and magnesium carbonate in groundwater) | No. Although hardness is a nuisance because it causes decreased efficiency of water heaters and can shorten the life of water using appliances. | Is there scum or scale deposited on tubs, showers or humidifiers? Is it difficult to lather soap or shampoo? Is there a buildup of white material in your tea kettle? Do your dishes have white spots? | Test your water alkalinity and hardness. Contact a laboratory certified by DNR to test for calcium and magnesium. | **Install a Dept. of Safety and Professional Services approved water treatment device** from search dropdown, select products; then from type of product, choose plumbing products and then water treatment device. Devices are listed under contaminants they will remove. Water softeners are the best option. | Yes, treatment devices must be installed by licensed plumbers; or in some cases may be installed by the owner/occupant of a single family private residence. See plumbing license laws. | No | **UWSP Well Water Quality Viewer**
**Center for Watershed Science and Education, UW-Stevens Point**
**United States Geological Survey**
**National Ground Water Association**
**Water Systems Council**
**National Sanitation Foundation**

See the [United States Geological Survey web page on hardness](https://water.usgs.gov/sci适题goals/quality/waterhardness.html).