



## **Autotrol Performa Water Softener Installation Instructions**



## **WATER SOFTENER ASSEMBLY INSTRUCTIONS**

We think installing our softeners is easy (if you are somewhat mechanically inclined and have a little experience doing basic plumbing). Be sure to check with local code officials and install per local code.

### **Note:**

If you have an electric water heater we recommend that you turn off the electricity to the heater while installing softener. Once you are satisfied with the installation, turn on a few hot and cold-water faucets, and let them run. Once you are certain that there is no more air in your pipes, then turn the electricity back on to the water heater.

### **Step 1:**

Location of your softener is important. It should be in a protected dry, level and non-freezing area (34-120 degrees F). The 2 tanks should be set close to each other. The short round tank with the black lid is your brine tank (for softener salt or potassium chloride) and it is the tank that you will have to refill, so make it the more accessible of the 2 tanks. Do not put salt in this tank until you have put the softener into service and have tested the cycles.

### **Step 2:**

You will need a standard outlet that is not controlled by a switch, which can be Up to 50 feet from your softener.

### **Step 3:**

You will need a drain for the backwashing cycles. This should be no longer than 20 feet from the softener. Refer to the Autotrol manual for exceptions and more details. You will need to purchase this flexible 1/2 i.d. plastic pipe (can be vinyl, polyethylene polybutylene, etc. and same size will be used in step 8). This backwashing drain line will be under pressure when the backwash cycle is working. Make sure the drain line is secured. The drain line will need to drain into a drain, which should be a minimum of 1 1/2" size, and ideally be below the top of the head of your softener. Local codes should be adhered to.

**Note:** Never connect the drain line directly into a drain. Allow an air-gap between the drain line and waste line to prevent possibility of back-siphonage.

### **Step 4:**

Once you have determined the exact location of your softener, it is time to fill the media/mineral tank (taller of the 2) with the furnished media (looks like brown tiny beads and has a consistency of wet sand).

The distributor tube should be in the mineral tank - screen intake would be at the bottom; open end will be at the top. The screen intake should be resting on the bottom, centered.

There should be a small cap used to cover the open end of the distributor tube. This is to keep any media from falling into the distributor tube while pouring the media into the mineral tank.

Place the funnel (provided) into the mineral tank, and begin to put the media into the mineral tank. Be careful to keep the distributor tube centered as best you can, while filling. There should only be enough media to fill the tank about 1/2 to 2/3 full. The mineral tank should not be filled to the top. It is necessary for the media to have room to move during the backwash cycle. An easy (but slower) way to fill the mineral tank is to take a small scoop and pour the media into the funnel. The media beads tend to stick to the funnel so by filling slowly the media will go into the tank easier.

Once the filling of the mineral tank is completed, carefully remove the blue cap from the distributor tube. Do not pull upwards on the distributor tube. Fill the tank with water using a garden hose covering the media. Letting the media soak with doing the plumbing connections will lessen in amount of black water when first hooked-up.

The control valve (head) now must be screwed onto the mineral tank. Be sure the large O-ring is in place, and lubricated. As you start to screw the control valve onto the tank, make sure the hole in the center of the control valve fits over the distributor tube. **NO pipe dope should be used on the threads.** The control valve should be hand tightened, snugly, clockwise.

**Step 5:**

You are now ready to install the bypass valve to the control valve. Follow the instructions in the box. The in and out arrows on the bypass valve should be pointing the same direction as the in/out arrows on the outside of the control valve. The arrows are molded into the plastic on both the bypass valve and the control valve.

**Step 6:**

Water connections to and from softener will now be connected to the bypass male threads by using the two Female nuts provided. Slip one female nut over one of the flanged tailpieces, so that the tube is sticking through the nut and the flanged piece is resting on the inside of the female threaded part of the nut. Use one 1 3/4" o.d. rubber washer to fit into the female part of the nut on top of the flanged tailpiece and screw the nut onto the 1 1/4" IPS male threads on the control valve. Do the same for the other side.

**Step 7:**

Between the two tanks you will need to connect the furnished 3/8" O.D. tubing. One end is to the fitting on the clear air check on the valve, and the other end attaches to the elbow fitting inside the brine tank. Pass the tubing through the hole and connect the fitting entirely inside the brine tank. Do not use the fitting in the brine tank as a "bulkhead" fitting (i.e. fastening the nut on the outside of the brine tank) - it must be connected entirely inside the brine tank. Hand tightening is all that should be needed.

**Step 8:**

Brine tank Overflow. Attach 1/2" i.d. plastic tubing to the fitting from the brine tank and run to a drain. This drain line will not be under pressure. **DO NOT** tie into the backwash drain line! This line should be higher than your drain line. Overflow drain line must be a separate line from fitting to the floor-drain, sewer, tub, etc.

Now follow the instructions in the Autotrol Performa manual for putting the softener into service.

**Other Notes:**

If using copper pipe, we recommend using type L copper. Type L is thicker than type M copper.

**Caution:** A common problem for beginners when soldering onto the copper tailpieces is overheating them, melting the plastic nuts that connect to the bypass valve. We recommend that you wrap a wet rag around the nuts and tailpieces to keep the heat away. Also use care when tightening the tailpiece nuts so you do not crack them!

**Important:** Be sure you double-check the inlet and outlet arrows on your softener before soldering!

Remember that your pipes and water heater contain hard water, so it will take a few days until your water is 100% soft. Draining your water heater can hasten this. This also will remove any build up sediment (you are supposed to do this annually).

Remember to now not use as much soap for dishwashing, laundry, etc. etc. No need for it! Many people report needing to use only about 1/3 to 1/2 as much as they previously needed.

Warranty does transfer to a new owner if you sell your home. The Autotrol Performa water softer must be installed on water supplies within limits as outlined below:

Water temperature range. 38 to 100 degrees Fahrenheit.  
Maximum water pressure. 100 psig.

Any damages caused by freezing, accident, fire, flood, act of God, misuse, misapplication, neglect, or alterations are not covered by this warranty. Installation or operation contrary to our written instructions or contrary to advice provided by phone, fax, or requested verbal instructions will void this warranty.

Our obligation under this warranty is limited to the repair or replacement of the defective parts of the unit. We assume no liability whatsoever for incidental or consequential damages from any cause.

All items under the period of warranty and suspected to be defective in accordance with the above conditions are to be returned pre-paid to the manufacturer for inspection. Upon inspection the manufacturer will at their option repair or replace items as needed. If it is determined that the failure is due to conditions not covered by this warranty, then repair or replacement costs will be borne by the owner of the system.

**If there are any uncertainties about this warranty or concerns about the application of the equipment covered by this warranty please contact the selling party or the manufacturer BEFORE installation and start-up of the equipment. You can reach us toll free @ 888-491-4100.**

**Thank you for choosing PuriTeam for your water filtration needs!**