



NOVEMBER UPDATE



Construction crews continue to make progress on the City of Brandon's reverse osmosis (R/O) water treatment plant expansion. It is anticipated the project will be completed at the end of 2024. At that time, residents and businesses in Brandon will enjoy softer water that will be easier on appliances and plumbing fixtures.

The expansion project will provide a greater quantity of better-quality water to our community. To pay for the project, monthly surcharges will be implemented as of January 1, 2023.

Since construction on the project began in August, the City of Brandon began paying for the expansion at that time. The bid for the project came in at \$24,973,800. The City received \$7,467,900 in American Rescue Plan Act funding from the South Dakota Department of Agriculture and Natural Resources to offset the cost of this project. However, financing from a 30-year bond is also needed to pay for the expansion. The loan payments on the 30-year bond begin in February. That is why the surcharges will begin in January.

Unfortunately, the City is experiencing the negative effects of inflation just as families are across the country. Due to inflation, the bond rate the City of Brandon received is 4.67% instead of the anticipated 3%.

IMPORTANT NOTICE

The surcharge on water bills for most homeowners is projected to be about \$28.20 per month. However, the amount will be finalized by the City Council this month. The approved rate structure will be sent to residents in utility bills in December. The rate structure will be reviewed annually. As Brandon grows, the monthly surcharge amounts may decrease over time.

Brandon

SOUTH DAKOTA

Once operational, the Brandon R/O water treatment plant will supply softer water that will be easier on appliance and fixtures.

If you currently have a water softener, you can continue to use it. The level of softening is up to each family's personal preference. The City of Brandon will share water softener hardness information after the project is complete to account for the reduced hardness coming out of the R/O water treatment plant. Customers should use this information to adjust their softener settings if they desire.

In addition, R/O treatment may also allow homeowners to reduce the amount of salt used in their water softeners, which should result in an annual cost savings and a reduced amount of salt being discharged into the environment from home water softeners.



WHAT IS WATER HARDNESS?



Calcium and magnesium mineral levels in the water are what is referred to as "hardness" in drinking water. The new R/O treatment system will reduce the hardness of the City's water from approximately 24 grains of hardness down to approximately 12 grains. In the future, the Brandon R/O water treatment plant will supply water with a hardness level range similar to Sioux Falls and Minnehaha Community Water Corporation.