

Chloramines

The Town of Mulberry would like to inform the public about chloramines in your drinking water.

What are Chloramines?

Chloramines are a combination of chlorine and ammonia which are used to kill harmful bacteria in the water. They do not increase PH levels, and they will not affect pool water. Chloraminated water will not harm plants due to the chlorine demand of soil.

Need to know

Two groups of people who need to take special care with chloraminated water: Kidney dialysis patients and fish owners. Chloramines must be removed from water used in kidney dialysis process and from water that is used in fish tanks or ponds. If you think you might be affected by this, we urge you to seek professional assistance.

Why are chloramines a problem for kidney dialysis patients?

Chloramines are harmful when they go directly into the blood stream in the dialysis process, water comes in contact with the blood across a permeable membrane. Chloramines in dialysis water would be toxic, just as chlorine in dialysis water would be toxic.

Chlorine and chloramines must be removed from the water used in kidney dialysis machines. There are two ways to accomplish this, by adding ascorbic acid or by using granular activated carbon treatment.

Medical centers that perform dialysis are responsible for purifying the water that enters the dialysis machines. All medical facilities have been notified of the change to chloramines.

Home dialysis service companies can usually make the needed modifications, but you should check with your physician to be certain. If you have any questions, please consult your physician and medical center.

What special precautions should fish owners take?

Fish also take chloramines directly into their bloodstream. Chloramines should be removed from water that is used in fish tanks and ponds. This includes lobster tanks at grocery stores and restaurants, as well as fish containers at bait shops. Chloramines are toxic to fish, reptiles, turtles, and amphibians just as chlorine is. Chloramines can be removed from the water by using a water conditioner containing a dechlorinator or by granular activated carbon. Please remember unlike chlorine, chloramines last for weeks and tap water should never be used directly when adding water to a tank or pond without treatment. If you have any questions, please consult your pet store.

If chloramines are harmful to fish, how can people safely drink the water?

Chloraminated water is no different than chlorinated water for all of the normal uses we have for water. Water that contains chloramines is totally safe to drink for pregnant women and children. The digestive process neutralizes the chloramines before they reach the bloodstream. Even kidney dialysis patients can drink the water.

Do home purifiers remove chloramines?

Most home purifiers are not designed to remove chloramines. Boiling the water is not an effective method of removing chloramines either. The only practical methods of removing chloramines from water are using a water conditioner which contains a dechlorinator or by using granular activated carbon. Please consult your manufacturer for specific information.

Where to call?

If you have any future question about Town Of Mulberry's Water Works treatment process or water quality, please call the Town Hall at 765-296-2455 from 9am to 4pm Tuesday through Thursday.

If you have and questions about kidney dialysis, please call your physician or medical center.

If you have any questions concerning the care of your fish or pets, please call your pet store.