

# Chloramines Q & A

## ***Is chloramine disinfection new?***

No. In fact, chloramine disinfection has been used by the City of Tampa since 1982. Chloramines have also been used in Miami/ Dade for 20 years, and in several other areas of the country.

## ***Are chloramines safe?***

Yes. Chloraminated water is safe for bathing, drinking, cooking, and all other everyday uses.

## ***Why do kidney dialysis patients have to take special precautions?***

Like chlorine, chloramines in water used for dialysis would be toxic and must be removed. Medical centers performing dialysis are responsible for preparing the water that enters the dialysis machines. Like you, they are being notified of this change.



## ***What will my water taste or smell like with chloramines?***

If you notice any change at all, the water may have less of a chlorine odor or taste.

## ***Will there be any noticeable difference in my water?***

You may notice a temporary variation in water color and possibly sediment in the water for a day or two during the conversion process. The effects are similar to those experienced when a water main is replaced and will cease as the system stabilizes.

## ***Can children and pregnant women drink chloraminated water?***

Yes. Everyone can drink water that contains chloramines.

## ***Is it safe to wash an open wound with chloraminated water?***

Yes. It is completely safe.

## ***How do chloramines affect fish?***

Like chlorine, chloramines are toxic to fish and must be removed from their water. Two methods can be used to remove chloramines from water: 1) Add specific agents to remove chloramines and ammonia, OR 2) Use a high grade of granular-activated carbon to remove chloramines. See your pet store for details.

## ***Will chloramines affect swimming pools?***

No, you will still need to add chlorine to prevent algae and bacterial growth. Contact your local pool supply store for details.

During the transition, residents with new or repaired marcite pool surfaces should consider waiting 7 to 14 days before filling. This allows the water distribution system to stabilize if your area has had any flushing activity.

For further information call City of Clearwater Public Utilities at 562-4960.

*The Pinellas County Department of Health has reviewed this report.*

## **CLEARWATER**

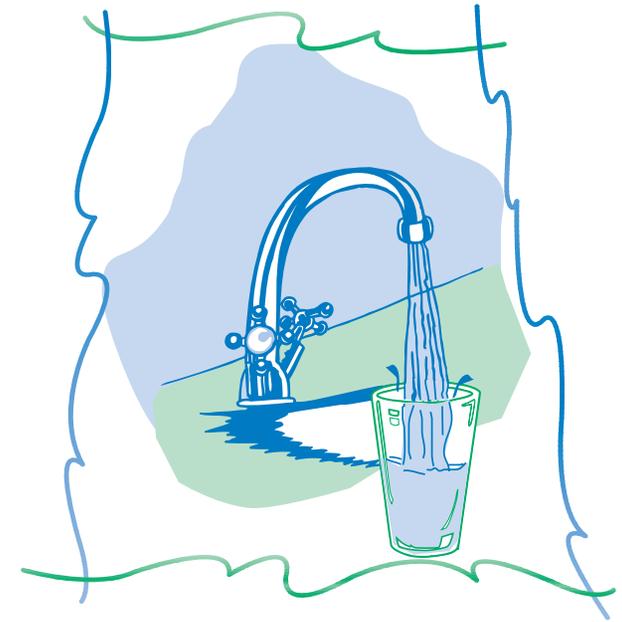
Brian J. Aungst, Mayor-Commissioner

Whitney Gray, Commissioner  
Frank Hibbard, Commissioner

Hoyt Hamilton, Commissioner  
Bill Jonson, Commissioner

3-2002

# Something in Your Water is Changing



*Beginning in the spring of 2002,  
we'll be changing the way we  
disinfect your drinking water.*

CITY OF  
**Clearwater**

100 South Myrtle Avenue  
Clearwater, Florida 33756  
www.clearwater-fl.com

# WHAT'S NEW?

For years, the City of Clearwater has been using chlorine to disinfect drinking water. Disinfection kills microbes like viruses and bacteria that can make you sick.

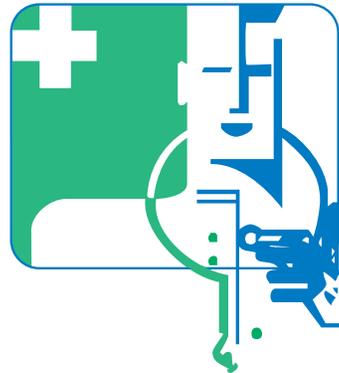
In order to meet new federal and state regulations governing water quality that will go into effect in 2004 under the National Safe Water Drinking Act, Tampa Bay Water and the communities served by its members are changing the way water is disinfected.

Chloramine disinfection is a process in which a small amount of ammonia is added to water that has been treated with chlorine. Chlorine reacts with naturally occurring organic matter in water sources and creates "disinfection byproducts." The new disinfectant, called chloramine, lasts longer and reduces formation of suspected cancer-causing byproducts.

Chloraminated water is perfectly safe for drinking, cooking, bathing and all other everyday uses. In fact, most people in our community will not need to change anything they do now.

*However, there are two groups of people who should take special precautions when using chloraminated water. They are kidney dialysis patients and fish owners.*

## WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW IF YOU USE DIALYSIS ...



Like chlorine, chloramines must be removed from water used in kidney dialysis machines. The City of Clearwater Utility Department is working with representatives of local hospitals and dialysis treatment centers to educate them about this change. If you are a dialysis patient or have questions, call your physician or the dialysis center nearest you.

## ... OR HAVE AN AQUARIUM

Chloramines must be removed from water before it is used in aquariums or ponds. Most pet stores sell water conditioners for chloraminated water. If you have questions, contact your local pet store for information and detailed instructions.



**QUESTIONS?**

Call 562-4960