

Chloramines

Chloramines are a combination of chlorine with a small amount of ammonia, used in water treatment in order to reduce the levels of chlorination by-products and to reduce the taste and odors in the water that may result from chlorination. Chlorination by-products are primarily an issue associated with surface water treatment and generally not an issue with groundwater sources. Chloramine treatment is not a new disinfectant but has been used by other water agencies for many years. Chloramines do not pose a health hazard to the general population. However, they can be a serious problem to individuals with kidney disease undergoing dialysis treatment on artificial kidney machines unless the chloramines are reduced to acceptable levels. Dialysis patients receiving dialysis treatment at home should contact their dialysis facility.

Chloramines and chlorine are toxic to fish. Therefore anyone putting fish into water obtained from our local water supply should take measures to assure that the fish are properly protected. Local pet and fish shops should be contacted to determine the best measures for neutralizing chloramines. Holding water for a period of time may work well for chlorine but is not a reliable procedure for chloramines, because chloramines do not dissipate as quickly as chlorine.