

NOTICE

CHLORAMINE CONVERSION



In March 2020 the water supplied by the City of Craig will be treated with monochloramine. With this change, our customers will receive drinking water with improved taste and odor that meets or surpasses stringent standards set by the United States Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA).

If you have any questions about this topic or any other water quality issue, please contact Water & Wastewater Director, Mark Sollenberger:

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ARE CHLORAMINES NEW?

No. Many cities in the U.S. and Canada have used chloramines for decades.

ARE CHLORAMINES SAFE?

Yes. The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA) accepts chloramines as a disinfectant and as a way to avoid formation of known carcinogens in the trihalomethane family of compounds. Chloraminated water is safe for bathing, drinking, cooking and all uses we have for potable water every day. However, there are two groups of people who need to take special care with chloraminated water: kidney dialysis patients and fish owners.

WHAT ARE TRIHALOMETHANES (THMs)?

THMs are some of the chemical compounds that are formed when chlorine mixes with naturally occurring organics in water. The USEPA has determined some THMs to be carcinogens (cancer-causing agents) for people.

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 potable water, including drinking. The digestive process neutralizes the chloramines before they reach the bloodstream. However, fish absorb chloramines directly into their bloodstreams through their gills, which can be fatal.

CAN YOU SAFELY WASH A WOUND WITH CHLORAMINATED WATER?

Yes. It is safe to use chloraminated water in cleansing an open wound because virtually no water actually enters the bloodstream that way.

CAN CHILDREN AND PREGNANT WOMEN DRINK CHLORAMINATED WATER?

Yes. Everyone can drink water that contains chloramines.

CAN YOU SAFELY WATER PLANTS, VEGATABLES OR FRUIT AND NUT TREES?

Yes. The small amount of chloramines in the water supply will have no effect on plants of any type.

IMPORTANT INFO FOR FISH OWNERS:

We know your pets' safety is always a top priority, so it's important that fish owners are knowledgeable about this upcoming change to Craig's water. While the conversion will further protect Craig's health, it will also change the way you care for your fish, amphibians and reptiles.

Chloramines must be removed from any water to be used for fish tanks or ponds. Chloramines are toxic to saltwater and freshwater fish, reptiles, turtles and amphibians, and must be removed.

You may not have had to remove chlorine from your aquarium water because it dissipates rapidly on its own. This is not the case with chloramines and specific steps must be taken for their removal.

Chloramines can be removed from the water by using a water conditioner specifically designed to remove chloramines or by using a granular activated carbon filter. Your pet supplier should be able to provide any further guidance you may need on these products.



IMPORTANT INFO FOR DIALYSIS PATIENTS:

Kidney dialysis patients can safely drink, cook, and bathe in water disinfected with monochloramines because the digestive process neutralizes monochloramine before it enters the bloodstream. However, monochloramine is harmful if it directly enters the bloodstream. Therefore, like chlorine, monochloramine must be removed from water to be used in kidney dialysis machines. If not removed, monochloramine can cause life-threatening hemolytic anemia in kidney dialysis patients.

Water purification standards addressing chlorine and monochloramine are already in place within the kidney dialysis industry. These standards, set forth by the Association for the Advancement of Medical Instrumentation, require tests for both chlorine and monochloramine to ensure these chemicals have been removed from the water before it is used in the dialysis machine.

All kidney dialysis patients, even those who receive their treatments from a trained relative or caregiver at home, must be under the care of a kidney dialysis center. All centers in Craig, as well as hospitals with acute dialysis facilities, have been informed about the addition of monochloramine.