

Chloramines Q&A

Q: When will the District begin adding chloramine?

A: Chloramine addition will begin on December 1, 2012.

Q: What is chloramine?

A: Chloramine is chlorine combined with ammonia.

Q: Is chloramine safe?

A: Yes. Water containing chloramine is just as safe for bathing, drinking, cooking, and all other everyday uses as water containing chlorine.

Q: Is chloramine safe for children and pregnant women?

A: Yes. Everyone can drink water that contains chloramine.

Q: Is it safe to wash an open wound with water containing chloramine?

A: Yes. It is completely safe to do so.

Q: I have kidney disease. Can I drink water that has chloramine?

A: Yes. The concern is only related to the dialysis machine. You can still drink, bathe, cook, and use water with chloramine. If you have any concerns, you should consult your doctor.

Q: Why is chloramine safe for people, birds, dogs, and cats, but not for fish or amphibians?

A: Because fish and amphibians get their oxygen from water rather than air. Their blood comes into contact with the water through their gills. Fish and amphibians cannot survive in water containing chlorine or chloramine because either disinfectant is harmful to them if it gets into their bloodstream. But when an animal, or a person, drinks water containing chlorine or chloramine, both chemicals are destroyed in the digestive track well before the water reaches the bloodstream.

Q: Will chloramine affect my swimming pool?

A: No. You should continue to treat your pool the same way you do now. Contact your pool supply store for details.

For further information, please call the Serrano Water District at (714) 538-0079



Serrano Water District

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Chloramine is coming to Your drinking Water



Serrano Water District



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What is this About?

The Serrano Water District currently uses chlorine to disinfect the drinking water it serves you. Disinfection is necessary to kill microbes like bacteria and viruses that can make you sick. These microbes are present in all natural waters, and disinfection of the drinking water is strictly regulated by United States EPA and the California Department of Public Health (DPH).

Chlorine added to water forms molecules called “disinfection by-products”. There are laws that limit the amount of these by-products in drinking water, and these laws just became more stringent to the point that the District cannot continue the use of chlorine for disinfecting the drinking water. Chloramine is another disinfectant that does not form these by-products. Therefore, to comply with the new laws, the District is converting the disinfectant in its drinking water from chlorine to chloramine. This conversion will take place on December 1, 2012.

Water containing chloramine is perfectly safe for drinking, cooking, bathing, and all other everyday uses. In fact, the drinking water used by the vast majority of people in Southern California has contained chloramine since the 1980's. The cities of Orange, Anaheim, Santa Ana, Irvine, and Fullerton, all have chloramine in their drinking water.

However, if you are a kidney dialysis patient, or have aquatic animals, please read the following...

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

Water used for kidney dialysis machines has to be free of all impurities, including chlorine or chloramine. All dialysis machines already have filters that remove chlorine. However, the filters used to remove chloramine are different than those used to remove chlorine. It is important that the machine you use has the proper filter for removing chloramine from the water. Water containing chloramine may also contain small amounts of ammonia, and ammonia may also need to be removed from the water used for dialysis. To our knowledge, there are no hospitals or dialysis treatment centers served directly by the Serrano Water District. However, if you use a home dialysis service, you need to make sure the machine you use has the proper filters to remove chloramine and ammonia. If you are a dialysis patient, or have any questions, please call your physician or the dialysis center nearest you.



... OR IF YOU HAVE AN AQUARIUM OR A POND

Chloramine must be removed from water before it is used in aquariums or ponds. Pet stores sell specific additives and filters designed for removing chloramine from water. Even if you have a filter to remove chlorine, it may not be sufficient to remove chloramine. Water containing chloramine may also contain low levels of ammonia. Ammonia can also be harmful to some aquatic species. If you have fish or any amphibians in aquariums or ponds, it is important that you talk to a pet store nearest you to make sure that your pets are adequately protected.

