

Kidney Dialysis Patients and Fish Owners

Kidney Dialysis Patients can safely drink, cook, and bathe in chloraminated water. However, chloramines must be removed from the water used in kidney dialysis machines. If you have any questions or concerns about your dialysis and the changes in the water, please consult with your physician.

Fish Owners must remove chloramines 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. 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.

If you have any questions, please contact the City of Kinston Public Services Department at (252) 939-3282 to get up-to-date water quality information.

City of Kinston
Department of
Public Services

**Changes to the Disinfection
Method of Your Water
Starting March, 2009**

**What Dialysis Patients and
you and your fish need to
know!**



CITY OF KINSTON
DEPARTMENT OF
PUBLIC SERVICES

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Chloramines: What You Need To Know!

Starting March, 2009, the City of Kinston in conjunction with Neuse Regional Water and Sewer Authority (NRWASA) will be making a necessary change to our water disinfection process. The disinfectant of our drinking (potable) water will change from chlorine to chloramines. Chloramine is a form of disinfectant produced by combining chlorine with ammonia. Both chloramines and chlorine are disinfectants that destroy potentially harmful bacteria should they enter the drinking water system. Chloramines last longer and do not form nearly as many disinfection by-products as chlorine.

Most people within our water system will not even notice the change. However, there are two groups of people who should take special precautions when using chloraminated water. These groups are **kidney dialysis patients and fish owners**. Chloramines must be removed from the water used in the kidney dialysis process and from water that is used in fish tanks and ponds. This brochure will help you understand chloramines and the water treatment process. If you have any questions about this topic or any other water quality issues, please contact our 24 hour Customer Service number at (252) 939-3282.

Chloramines Questions & Answers

Are chloramines new?

No. Many cities in the U.S. 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 drinking 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.

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 drinking 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 pregnant women and children drink chloraminated water?

Yes. Everyone can drink water that contains chloramines.

Can you safely wash an open wound with chloraminated water?

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

Can you safely water plants, vegetables or fruit and nut trees?

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

Will chloramines affect your swimming pool?

No. You will still need a free chlorine residual to retard algae and bacteria growths. Contact your local pool supply stores for specific information.

Do home water purifiers remove chloramines?

Most home purifiers are not designed to remove chloramines. Consult your manufacturer for specific information.

Where can I get more information about chloramines in the City of Kinston?

You may contact the City of Kinston Public Services Department at (252) 939-3282 for more information on chloramines. Also visit us online at www.kinstonpublicservices.com to get up-to-date water quality information.

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