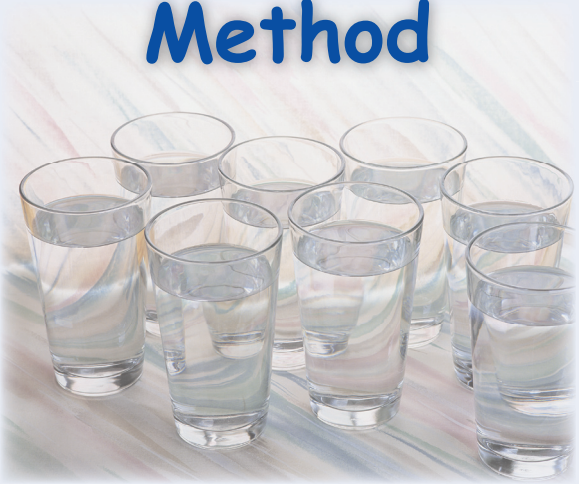


# Improving Your Drinking Water Disinfection Method



**Greenville  
Utilities**

# WHAT'S NEW?

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For years, Greenville Utilities has been using chlorine to disinfect drinking water. Chlorine kills microbes like viruses and bacteria that can make you sick.

However, chlorine reacts with naturally occurring organic matter in water sources and creates “disinfection by-products.” In order to meet new federal and state regulations governing disinfection by-products, Greenville Utilities has changed the way your water is disinfected.

We have switched from chlorine to chloramines, which is a mixture of chlorine and ammonia. This new disinfectant lasts longer and does not form nearly as many disinfection by-products as chlorine.

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

Most people in our community will not even notice the change. However, there are two groups of people who should take special precautions when using chloraminated water. They are kidney dialysis patients and fish owners.

# CHLORAMINES Q&A

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## **Is chloramine disinfection new?**

No. Many cities in the U. S. and Canada have used chloramines for decades. Approximately 25% of the public water systems in the United States use chloramines as a disinfection agent, including Raleigh, Cary and Durham.

## **Are Chloramines safe?**

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

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

If you notice any change at all, it will likely be an improvement as the water may have less of a chlorine odor or taste.

## **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.

## **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

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chloramines and ammonia, OR 2) Use a high grade of granular-activated carbon to remove chloramines. See your pet store for details.

### **Can everyone drink chloraminated water?**

Yes. Chloraminated water is no different than chlorinated water for all of the normal uses we have for water. Water that contains chloramines is totally safe to drink. Everyone can drink water that's chloraminated. Even kidney dialysis patients can drink, cook and bathe in chloraminated water.

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

No. You will still need a chlorine residual to retard algae and bacterial growth. The chlorine chemicals and test kits you currently use can be used with confidence. Contact your local pool supply store for details.

**The Environmental Health Division of the Pitt County Health Department has reviewed this report.**

# TWO MAIN GROUPS ARE AFFECTED BY CHLORAMINES

## Kidney Dialysis Patients

Like chlorine, chloramines must be removed from water used in kidney dialysis machines. Greenville Utilities 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.



## Fish Owners

Just like chlorine, 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.





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*For further information on chloramines, contact GUC  
at 329-2160 or visit our website at [www.guc.com](http://www.guc.com)*