

# Chloramination

## What You Need to Know



### **WHY ARE WE DOING THIS?**

Chloramine will last longer than chlorine which is important in a water distribution system as large as the one the Stettler Water Treatment Plant supplies, distributing water from Mirror all the way to Consort.

### **WHAT IS CHLORAMINATION?**

Chloramine or Combined Chlorine is a combination of chlorine and a small amount of ammonia. Chloramination is the process that adds chloramines to drinking water. Many cities in Canada and around the world have been using the chloramination process for decades to purify drinking water and eliminate bacteria that cause waterborne diseases.

### **WHAT ARE THE BENEFITS OF CHLORAMINATION?**

Chloramine is more stable and persistent disinfection than chlorine. It preserves the quality of water purified at the Water Treatment Plant as it travels through the distribution systems. Chloramine has also shown to reduce the taste and smell of chlorine in tap water.

### **HOW WILL CHLORAMINATION AFFECT CONSUMERS?**

Both people and animals can safely drink, bath, do laundry and water their gardens with chloraminated water. Chloramine is only harmful when it enters the bloodstream directly, but it can be applied to clean open wounds without concern. Chloramine, just like chlorine, can contain risks or problems for reptiles, aquarium fish, dialysis centers, where kidney patients are treated and industrial water users who need a more highly processed water supply.

### **WHAT KIDNEY DIALYSIS PATIENTS NEED TO KNOW:**

Dialysis patients can drink, bath and cook with chloraminated water, but they cannot use chloraminated water in the dialysis process. Dialysis centers will have to take measures to take the chloramine out of their water. Kidney patients should contact their physician for more information.

### **WHAT FISH OWNERS NEED TO KNOW:**

Reptiles, amphibians and fish can take up the chloramine in the water directly through their gills into the blood stream. To circumvent these risks, the water for aquariums could be filtered or purified by adding chemicals. Household, restaurant, and commercial fish tanks owners will need to change their current chlorine removal process to remove chloramines instead. Contact your aquariums supplier or pet store for details.

### **CAN BABIES DRINK CHLORAMINATED WATER?**

Yes, everyone can drink water that contains chloramine. There is no evidence that chloramine is excreted in the milk of nursing mothers.

**CAN HOME REMEDIES REMOVE CHLORAMINE?**

Chloramine is a more persistent disinfectant than chlorine. As a result, it is retained in the water for a longer period of time. Unlike chlorine it cannot be removed by letting the water sit for a few days, by boiling or by using salts.

**WILL POOL OR SPA OWNERS NEED TO TREAT THE WATER DIFFERENTLY?**

No, pool owners will still need to maintain the same chlorine or bromine levels as before to control algal and bacterial growth.

**HOW IS PLUMBING AFFECTED BY CHLORAMINATION?**

The change to chloramines may cause some rubber or synthetic rubber material in household plumbing fixtures to degrade faster. When replacing, ask for chloramine resistant parts. Chloramination will not affect plastic piping or plumbing parts.

For more information on the chloramination system and who is affected by it, please see the following facts or visit us at [www.stettler.net](http://www.stettler.net).