

*Part One of Series*

# Chloramines:

## Introducing a new Water Treatment Process

Pinellas County Utilities is making a necessary change to our water treatment process. In **May 2002**, we will disinfectant our potable (drinking) water with chloramines instead of using the current disinfectant, chlorine. *Chloramines* is a disinfectant formed by combining chlorine with ammonia. Using chloramines, as with chlorine, as a form of disinfectant will aid in the destruction of potentially harmful bacteria in potable water.

Chloramines have been used safely throughout the United States and Canada for many years. Tampa and Miami/Dade are among the cities in Florida which use chloramines as part of their water treatment process. For all normal uses of potable water, chloraminated water is the same as chlorinated water. There are two groups of people, however, who need to take **special care** with chloraminated water just as they have to do with our current disinfectant: *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.

The use of chloramines enables Pinellas County Utilities to continue to provide our customers with water that is safe to drink and aesthetically pleasing. If you have any questions about the new water treatment process or our water quality control program, please contact Pinellas County Utilities at **727-464-4714**.

## WHY?

- Tampa Bay Water, our water supplier, is changing its potable water disinfectant to chloramines
- Regional source waters to change by 2003 to include groundwater, surface water and desalinated water
- Compliance with new and stricter health standards under the USEPA's Safe Drinking Water Act
- Reduction in the formation of suspected cancer-causing compounds, such as total trihalomethanes (TTHMs), which can be caused by the chlorination of surface water

## WHO?

All retail customers of Pinellas County Utilities and water customers of the Cities of Clearwater, Oldsmar, Pinellas Park, Safety Harbor and Tarpon Springs.