

Part Three of Series

Chloramines:

Answers to Questions You Wanted to Know!

Question:

Why is Pinellas County Utilities making this change to chloramines?

Answer:

The change of public water supply disinfectant from chlorine to chloramines was a decision made by Tampa Bay Water. This decision was made to permit incorporation of surface water into the regional water system and continue to meet the new federal regulations on potable water supplies found in the Safe Drinking Water Act. Public health agencies have approved chloramine as an alternative to chlorine. The City of Tampa has used chloramine as a disinfectant method since 1980. Some citizens will notice a change in taste or odor, most notably caused by the reduction of chlorine. Some will consider the change a positive taste or odor change, while others will disagree.

Question:

What are the benefits of disinfecting with chlorine and ammonia?

Answer:

Chloramine is a chemical combination of chlorine and ammonia. It is not ammonia by itself. While ammonia can be toxic to fish, its combination with chlorine to form chloramine will produce a disinfected water much the same as that with chlorine. Chloramines are more stable than chlorine and therefore have a longer disinfectant life. While chlorine and chloramines are both safe and effective, chloramines provide the following benefits:

- When chloramines react with organic material in water, the results are substantially lower concentrations of regulated disinfection by-products, such as THMs, than when chlorine is used as the disinfectant.
- Water may taste and smell better because it will not have the chlorine taste.

For more information on chloramines or other water quality concerns, please contact us at 727/464-4000 or visit us at <http://utility.co.pinellas.fl.us>.