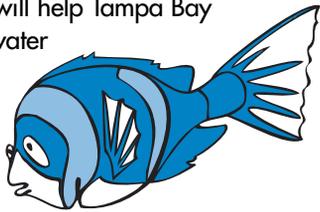


What Fish Owners Need to Know About Chloramines

In May 2002, the water supplied to Pinellas, Pasco and Hillsborough counties from Tampa Bay Water, the region's wholesale water supplier, will be treated with chloramines. This will help Tampa Bay Water and your local water utility meet new, stricter water regulations being set forth by the United States

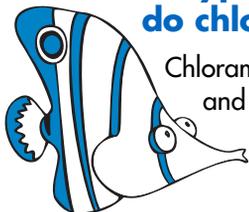


Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA) to improve water quality. Currently, 20 to 25 percent of local governments in the United States use chloramines, and the number is expected to grow due to these new regulations.

What does this mean for aquarium and pond owners?

The chloraminated water customers receive will meet state and federal drinking water standards. However, chloramines that get into the bloodstream of fish and other marine life can be fatal. Since fish and other aquatic animals take chloramines directly from the water into their bloodstreams through their gills, **chloramines must be removed from water used for salt and freshwater habitats.**

What types of aquatic life do chloramines affect?



Chloramines will kill both saltwater and freshwater fish and other aquatic life including Koi

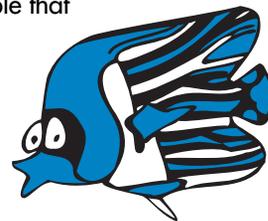
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fish, lobster, shrimp, frogs, turtles, snails, clams and live coral. Chloramines must be removed before using tap water in your saltwater or freshwater aquarium or pond.

How can I remove chloramines from my water?

A water-conditioning agent or an activated carbon filter specifically designed to remove chloramines must be used according to product instructions. If you are already using one of these products to remove chlorine, it's possible that the same product will also remove chloramines.

However, **you must read the product label** to be sure. Chlorine removal agents that are not specifically designed to also remove chloramines could leave excess ammonia in the water. Too much ammonia could harm fish. Pet stores and other retail outlets have sold these products for years. Your pet products supplier should be able to provide any further guidance you may need.



Won't letting water sit for a few days remove chloramines from tanks or pond water?

No! Unlike chlorine, which dissipates when water sits for a few days, chloramines are longer lasting and may take weeks to dissipate. While this improves the safety of the water supply, it does require a water-conditioning agent as a safe method for removing chloramines.

For more information, go to www.tampabaywater.org or call Pinellas County Utilities at 727-464-4000.

