

## CHLORAMINE CONVERSION PROJECT

*CHANGING THE WAY WE DISINFECT YOUR DRINKING WATER*

### General Questions and Answers

*Over the winter season, the City of Stockton Water Utility will begin using chloramines in its North Stockton Water Service Area to change the way our drinking water is disinfected. The following general information is provided to help you understand if and how your drinking water is affected.*

**What is drinking water disinfection?** Disinfection inactivates disease-causing organisms in water. This chemical process kills microorganisms like bacteria, viruses, and protozoa. Chemical disinfectants include chlorine, chloramines, and ozone.

**Why is the City changing to chloramines?**

The change to chloramines, as a secondary disinfectant, meets new federal rules enacted to reduce levels of certain regulated disinfection byproducts in drinking water.

**What are chloramines?** A chemical compound of chlorine and ammonia, commonly used as a diluted solution to disinfect drinking water before delivery to you. These chloramines are formed using low chemical concentrations in a controlled environment.

**Are chloramines commonly used to disinfect drinking water?** Chloramines have been safely used by water utilities for more than 90 years. More than 1 in 5 Americans uses drinking water treated with chloramines.

**Why select chloramine disinfection over other options?** Chloramine forms fewer disinfection byproducts, is more stable and longer lasting than free chlorine, and is the most cost-effective option.

**Will this change increase my water bill?** No, this project is included in the City's existing Capital Improvement Program.

**Will I notice a Change in taste/odor of my water?**

Utilities using chloramines often experience fewer taste and odor complaints than utilities using free chlorine.

**What precautions must dialysis providers take?**

Kidney dialysis patients can safely drink, cook, and bathe in water disinfected with chloramines. The digestive process neutralizes chloramines before entering the bloodstream. However, chloramines must be removed from water used in kidney dialysis machines. The City will work with local hospitals and dialysis treatment centers to educate about this change. ***If you are a dialysis patient, call your physician or the dialysis center nearest you.***

**Are chloramines safe for my fish?** Chloramines, like chlorine, are toxic to fish and aquatic life and must be removed from water used for live fish, amphibians, and other aquatic animals (lobster, shrimp, frogs, turtles, snails, clams, and live coral.)

**Is everyone in the City of Stockton affected?** No, only customers in the City's North Water Service Area, including County Areas served by the City, are affected. ***City water customers in the South Water Service Area and California Water Service Company customers are not affected.***

For a map of the City's Water Service Areas, visit [www.stocktonca.gov/watermap](http://www.stocktonca.gov/watermap).

**Other Questions?** Visit [www.stocktonca.gov/mud](http://www.stocktonca.gov/mud) for these additional documents.

- **Health Related Questions** — Includes information for kidney dialysis patients
- **General Household Questions** — Includes information for swimming pools and home filtration systems
- **Pets, Aquatic Life, Environmental Questions** — Includes information for domestic pets and fish