

Temporary Water Treatment Change Coming Soon
For Terrebonne Parish Residents

Date: June 12, 2017

In order to provide Terrebonne Parish customers the safest most effective disinfection process, Consolidated Waterworks District Number 1 will make a temporary change in the type of disinfectant used. It is typical for water systems that use chloramines, which is a combination of chlorine and ammonia, to temporarily change to free chlorine in order to clean water pipes and provide a reliable disinfectant residual throughout all points in the distribution system. The disinfectant residual tells us whether we are effectively disinfecting the water supply. The disinfectant residual is the amount of chlorine or chloramines in the distribution system. Chlorine and chloramines are common disinfectants used by water suppliers to kill bacteria in drinking water; therefore, if the disinfectant residual is too low, microorganisms can potentially grow in the distribution piping.

Below is a section of questions and answers that you and your family may have regarding this change:

When is this switch scheduled?

The temporary switch from chloramines to free chlorine will start Monday, June 12, 2017 and last until Monday, July 24, 2017. If changes in the duration of the switch should occur, customers will be notified.

What is involved?

In an effort to comply with regulations and recommendations from the Louisiana Department of Health, the United States Environmental Protection Agency and the United States Department of Health while providing high quality drinking water to our customers, the District will conduct this cleaning of our distribution system to protect customers against bacteria that may be present in the water supply.

What can I do if I notice a chlorine taste or smell?

During the temporary switch, you may notice a chlorine taste and/or odor in your drinking water. Chlorine levels will continue to meet EPA standards and are not a health risk.

- Run the cold water tap for several minutes when water is not used for several days.
- Collect and refrigerate cold tap water in an open pitcher. Be sure to collect water after running the cold water tap for two minutes. Within a few hours, the chlorine taste and odor will disappear.
- Water filters can reduce chlorine taste and odor. Be sure to use a filter certified to meet National Sanitation Foundation (NSF) standards and replace the filter cartridge as recommended by the manufacturer.

Who should take special precautions during the temporary switch to chlorine?

Customers who normally take special precautions to remove chloramines from tap water, such as dialysis centers, medical facilities and aquatic pet owners, should continue to take the same precautions during the switch. Most methods for removing chloramines from tap water are effective in removing chlorine.

Why does the District use chloramines most of the year?

Although chlorine is an effective disinfectant, the use of chlorine alone can create disinfection byproducts, which are regulated by the US Environmental Protection Agency.

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