

**Q. Does the use of chloramines affect kidney dialysis centers and patients?**

**A.** Yes. Like chlorine, chloramines must be removed from the water used in kidney dialysis machines.

**Q. Are my plants affected?**

**A.** Plants, vegetables, fruit and nut trees are not affected by chloramines in any way.

**Q. What about the way I treat my swimming pool water?**

**A.** No additional treatment should be necessary. However, you may find that there is a slight increase in chlorine demand. That means you might have to add a little more chlorine than usual to get to the level you typically maintain *after* it is topped off with tap water.

**Q. Do chloramines affect my home filtration system?**

**A.** You may notice that filters, particularly activated charcoal filters, have to be replaced slightly more often than before. Be sure to follow manufacturer's recommendations. Granular-activated filters are capable of removing chlorine and chloramines; check with the manufacturer if you are interested in finding out if your particular brand of filter removes chloramines.

**Want more information?**

Please contact  
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Hillsborough County  
Water Department  
**272-5977**

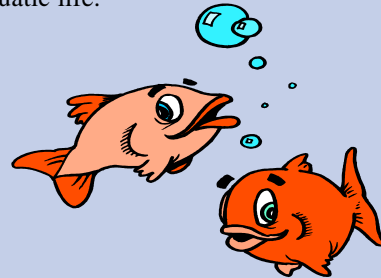
**HILLSBOROUGH COUNTY**  
*Board of County Commissioners*

## Special Message For Kidney Dialysis Patients And Fish Owners

Both chlorine and chloramines must be removed from water used in the kidney dialysis process and from water that is used in fish tanks or ponds, because they are toxic if they enter the bloodstream. In the dialysis process, water comes in contact with blood across a permeable membrane. Fish take water directly into their bloodstreams through their gills.

Kidney dialysis patients can safely drink, cook and bathe in chloraminated water. Chloramines are only harmful if they enter the bloodstream. Medical centers that perform dialysis or supervise home dialysis are responsible for ensuring that water is purified before it enters the dialysis machine. If you have any questions, please consult your physician.

Because chlorine dissipates relatively quickly, many aquarium owners simply leave water in an open container for several hours in order to remove it. This is not an effective method for removing chloramines. A chemical neutralizer or filter, available from most pet shops, must be used to eliminate any danger to fish and aquatic life.



# Chloramines And Your Drinking Water



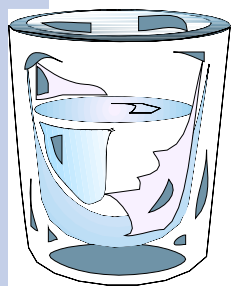
**Bringing You A Safe,  
Dependable Supply  
Of High-Quality Water**

**Hillsborough County  
Water Department**

# Providing Quality Drinking Water

## Safe and Dependable

Our goal at the Hillsborough County Water Department is to bring you a safe, dependable supply of drinking water. We know how important it is to provide our customers with water that meets or exceeds standards set by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. You can be confident we strive to provide the best possible product.



Our tap water in Hillsborough County comes from several different sources. Many county customers receive some of their drinking water from Tampa Bay Water, a government agency created to

provide water to local utilities in our region. Because Tampa Bay Water uses chloramines as a final step in its disinfection process, utilities which are connected to the regional water supply system – where water from different sources is blended - must also treat their water with chloramines in order to be compatible. An added benefit is that the chloramines disinfection also meets higher quality and safety standards set by the EPA.

The use of chloramines as a way of disinfecting drinking water is not a new process. In fact, 20 to 25 percent of the local governments in the United States currently use chloramines, and the number is expected to grow as federal regulations change to ensure the water delivered to you is of the highest quality.

## Answers To Your Questions About Chloramines

### Q. What are chloramines?

A. Chloramines are a disinfectant produced by combining chlorine and ammonia. Using chloramines to treat drinking water is a safe, common practice used since the 1930s by drinking water utilities across the country.

### Q. Which county water customers receive drinking water treated with chloramines?

A. Water provided to customers in our Northwest Service Area has been treated with chloramines since November 2001, in the South-Central Service Area since April 2005, and the original Carrollwood area in September 2005.

### Q. Why does Tampa Bay Water use chloramines to disinfect the water, rather than chlorine or other methods?

A. Tampa Bay Water made the switch to chloramines in advance of new, more stringent standards phased in by the EPA. The change to chloramines reduces the level of regulated disinfection by-products formed when chlorine mixes with trace quantities of naturally-occurring organic substances found in water. In addition, in many systems, chloramines are more stable than chlorine, disinfecting for a longer period of time in the distribution pipelines that deliver water to customers throughout the area. And while other options are available, chloramines are more economical and cost-effective than other methods used to treat drinking water.

### Q. Is there a difference in the water?

A. Most people report an improvement in the

way their drinking water tastes, because they can no longer detect the chlorine.

### Q. Will chloraminated water interact with my medications?

A. There are no known interactions between chloraminated water and any kind of medication.

### Q. I have a fish aquarium in my home. Am I going to have to do anything different to the water?

A. Yes. Chloramines, like chlorine, are toxic for aquatic life. Water conditioners and filters specifically designed for removing chloramines must be used.

### Q. What about the fish pond in my backyard?

A. If you use potable water to refill the pond, you must use a conditioner or filter to remove the chloramines.

### Q. Is chloraminated water safe for my dog and cat?

A. Yes.

Most people report an improvement in the way their drinking water tastes when it's treated with chloramines.

