CVWD is adding chloramine as a disinfection option

In addition to disinfection requirements, state and federal regulations also govern byproducts in drinking water that result from the treatment process. Chlorine creates substances during treatment when it reacts with natural organic materials contained in untreated water.

CVWD has seen a steady rise in the concentration of these byproducts, known as total trihalomethanes, or TTHMs, in the water served to customers. The amount of organic material in water varies by source.

Groundwater from our local Verdugo Basin has less organic materials than the imported water we purchase from Foothill Municipal Water District. The imported supply comes from the Colorado River and the State Water Project, which has a higher concentration of organic materials.

CVWD typically uses a blend of 60 percent groundwater and 40 percent purchased imported water to meet customer demands. But because groundwater levels have not yet recovered from the latest drought, the blends are now closer to 30 percent groundwater and 70 percent imported water from the Colorado River and State Water Project.

The increase in imported water, coupled with the additional chlorine required to maintain the system, has led to an increase in byproduct levels in the distribution system. CVWD is proactively adding chloramination as a disinfection option to help comply with drinking water standards.

Please see inside for answers to frequently asked questions and information about special requirements for dialysis machines and aquariums.

Crescenta Valley Water District
2700 Foothill Boulevard
La Crescenta, CA 91214

Join us at a public meeting.

CVWD is hosting informational meetings and invites you to learn more about your water.

Saturday, September 15, 2018 at **9 a.m.**
Glenwood Water Treatment Plant
3730 Sycamore Ave, La Crescenta, CA 91214

Thursday, September 20, 2018 at **7 p.m.**
Crescenta Valley Town Council meeting
2809 Foothill Blvd, La Crescenta, CA 91214

Regular Crescenta Valley Town Council meetings are held on the third Thursday of each month at 7:00 p.m inside the La Crescenta Library.

CRESCENTA VALLEY WATER DISTRICT

IMPORTANT INFORMATION

About *the* Treatment *of your* Drinking Water

2700 Foothill Boulevard
La Crescenta, CA 91214
T: 818.248.3925 | F: 818.248.1659
customerservice@cvwd.com

Crescenta Valley Water District (CVWD) disinfects drinking water to kill bacteria and other germs as required by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and the State Water Resources Control Board's Division of Drinking Water. These standards ensure that the water we deliver to taps is safe for drinking, cooking and bathing. CVWD currently uses chlorine to disinfect its drinking water.

Another disinfectant option called chloramines has been used in municipal water supplies since the 1930s. Today, many agencies across the country use this method, including the cities of Los Angeles, Burbank, Glendale, Pasadena, San Francisco, Boston, and Washington, D.C., along with the Metropolitan Water District of Southern California.

In order to continue serving high-quality safe drinking water, CVWD plans to use either chlorine or chloramine, depending on the sources of water supply available to the District. The ability to use either disinfectant improves treatment flexibility and water supply reliability.

Chloramine disinfection may begin in some areas of the District as early as the first of **October 2018.**

What is chloramination?

Chloramine, or chloramination, is a treatment method used by public water systems that contain chlorine and ammonia. The type of chloramine used in drinking water disinfection is called monochloramine. It is mixed into water in levels that kill germs but are still safe to drink.

Is chloramine safe?

Yes, it is safe for everyone, including children and pregnant women. Chloramine is recognized as a safe disinfectant and a good alternative to chlorine. According to the Centers for Disease Control, studies show that using or drinking water with small amounts of chloramine does not cause harmful health effects. These studies reported no observed health impacts from drinking water with chloramine levels of less than 50 milligrams per liter. This is substantially higher than the 4 mg/L State limit and the typical mono-chloramine disinfection level of 1 to 2 mg/L found in most drinking water systems. CVWD routinely tests your water to make sure it is safe and meets all health standards.

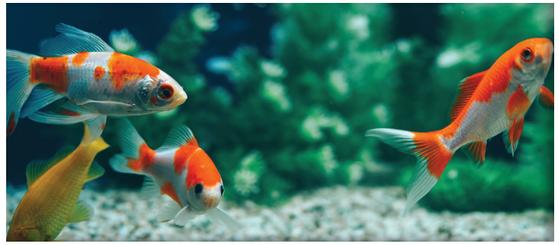
What are the precautions for dialysis machine users and dialysis providers?

All dialysis machines use a series of filtration systems to remove impurities from the water used by the machine. It is likely that all dialysis machines come equipped with filters that remove both chlorine and chloramine.

However, out of an abundance of caution, the District is notifying all potential dialysis machine users and dialysis treatment providers about the switch to chloramine and the need to verify that their machines are equipped with the proper filters to receive water containing chloramine.

Can water containing chloramines be used in aquariums for fish and amphibians?

Both chlorine and chloramine pose a problem for fish, frogs, turtles and other aquatic animals because it can get into their blood stream and cause them harm. For this reason, all aquariums have filters designed to remove chlorine from the water, and owners of fish treat the water with a chemical to destroy chlorine before adding water to a fish bowl. The same approach needs to be applied with chloramine. However, the filter used for chlorine removal may not be sufficient for chloramine removal. For this reason, owners of aquatic animals should ensure that the filters they use are rated for both chlorine and chloramine.



Is the water safe for dogs, cats and other pets besides aquatic animals?

Yes. Chloraminated water is safe for people and animals to drink, along with all other general uses.

Will chloramine affect my swimming pool?

No. You can continue treating your pool the same way you do now.

What are the advantages of this type of disinfection?

Because chloramine lasts longer in water pipes, it offers better protection against bacterial growth and minimizes biofilm, a slimy buildup that develops in pipes and can impact drinking water. Chloramine is also less reactive with organic matter than chlorine, so it creates lower concentrations of disinfection by-products in the water supply.

Is chloramine treatment standard practice?

The drinking water used by most people in Southern California has contained chloramine since the 1980s. More water districts have switched to chloramine as chlorine treatment byproduct levels have increased.

For more information about this change in treatment, please contact the District at **(818) 248-3925** or visit **www.cvwd.com**.