



Further Enhancing Our Water Quality

Upcoming Changes in Water Treatment

Beginning in mid-May, Meridian will transition from using free chlorine to chloramine for water disinfection to further enhance our water quality. Water disinfection is part of the drinking water treatment process and protects public health by eliminating harmful micro-organisms.

Previously announced in 2021, this work was delayed to 2022 due primarily to supply chain challenges. This conversion will be implemented in phases across Meridian's water system and will take a few weeks to complete.

What this means for you:

- Customers shouldn't notice any change in the taste of their drinking water during the disinfectant transition. In fact, the smell and taste of chlorine is typically less apparent with Chloramine disinfectant. No action is required for most customers, except for those described below.
- Chloramine, like chlorine, must be removed from water before being used for aquariums and kidney dialysis treatment. More information about removing chloramines for these uses is outlined on the reverse side.
- Customers may see Meridian vehicles and staff at hydrants throughout the system taking samples to ensure the highest water quality possible throughout this conversion.



What is chloramine disinfection?

Chloramine is formed by adding chlorine and ammonia under controlled conditions and is used to kill harmful micro-organisms in water systems.

What are the benefits of chloramine disinfection?

Many water utilities throughout Colorado and the United States have been using chloramine disinfection for over 100 years. The primary benefit is that the chloramine disinfectant lasts longer than free chlorine. A secondary benefit is that the smell and taste of chlorine is typically less apparent with a chloramine disinfectant.

Meridian is a member of the Water Infrastructure and Supply Efficiency (WISE) Project. The WISE Project is designed to supply their members with 10,000 acre-feet/year of renewable water. This chloramine conversion project will also make Meridian's water system more resilient by making our treated water compatible with WISE water.



Information for Fish Aquarium and Pond Owners

Why do aquarium and pond owners need to take special precautions?

While water with chloramine is safe for most pets, chloramine (like chlorine), must be removed from the water before used for aquatic life.

How is chloramine removed from water?

A water-conditioning agent or an activated carbon filter specifically designed to remove chloramine 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 chloramine. However, you must read the product label to be sure. A fish/pet supplier should be able to provide any further guidance you may need.

Where can I find more information on chloramines?

Environmental Protection Agency:
www.epa.gov/dwreginfo/chloramines-drinking-water



Questions?

More information can be found at meridiandistrict.com/chloramine-conversion

You can also contact staff at waterquality@MeridianDistrict.com or (303) 790-0345.

Information for Kidney Dialysis Patients

Why do dialysis patients need to take special precautions?

Kidney dialysis patients can safely drink, cook and bathe in water treated with chloramine. Like chlorine, chloramine must be removed from water to be used in kidney dialysis machines.

Chloramine is only harmful if it directly enters the bloodstream. If not removed, chloramine can cause hemolytic anemia in kidney dialysis patients.

How are chloramines removed before the dialysis process?

The process for removing chloramines is different from some of the methods used to remove chlorine. The Association for the Advancement of Medical Instrumentation sets standards that specifically address the removal of both free chlorine and chloramine.

Industry standards require that a nurse, technician or trained caregiver test for both free chlorine and chloramine after the purification process to ensure that these chemicals have been removed from the water before it is used in the dialysis machine.

All kidney dialysis patients, even those who receive their treatments from a trained relative or caregiver at home, must be under the care of a kidney dialysis center. Meridian is requesting the help of all kidney dialysis providers in our service area to inform their patients, including their "self-treating" patients, of this change prior to Meridian implementing chloramine disinfection.

