

Homes with lead in their plumbing

NSWC's distribution system consists does not contain lead.

Lead level increases apply only to homes with lead in their plumbing fixtures (typical of homes built prior to 1974).

NSWC converts from chlorine to chloramine disinfectant

In summer 2008, the North Shore Water Commission (NSWC) will be enhancing the taste and smell of its water by switching from chlorine to chloramine disinfection for our water distribution system. This conversion will impact Fox Point, Glendale, Whitefish Bay, and We Energies water consumers.

Many utilities throughout the U.S. are switching to chloramine-treated disinfectant in the distribution system because of its many benefits, including:

- Enhanced taste and smell of water
- Prolonged residual strength (this means the disinfectant lasts longer in the system, protecting your water from the time it leaves the water plant to when it enters your home)
- Decreased production of harmful by-products

Milwaukee and surrounding suburbs have been successfully using chloramine-treated water since the 1960s.

What does this mean to owners of homes with lead pipe systems?

NSWC is undertaking efforts to ensure lead levels in homes remain safe during and after the conversion.

Chloramines can cause a corrosive action in the distribution pipes. As a result, homes with lead in their plumbing could potentially experience increased lead in drinking water for a short period of time. NSWC is aware of this possibility and is proactively monitoring lead levels and providing additional treatment precautions.

NSWC's distribution system does not contain lead, and lead level increases apply only to homes with lead in their plumbing.

How do I test for lead?

Glendale, Fox Point, and Bayside residents should contact the North Shore Health Department for lead testing information at 414-371-2980.

Whitefish Bay residents should contact the Shorewood/Whitefish Bay Health Department for lead testing information at 414-847-2710.

The Environmental Protection Agency recommends any homeowner experiencing high lead levels let the tap run until the water is cold before drinking or cooking with it.

Need more information?

The North Shore Water Commission can answer questions about the conversion and its impacts to homeowners.

Contact: Eric Kiefer, Manager
info@northshorewc.com
414- 963-0160

Fish, Amphibians, and Reptiles

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has been treated with
chloramines since
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**Boiling water will not
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How are fish, amphibians, and reptiles affected?

Just like chlorine, chloramine must be removed from water for fish, amphibians, and reptiles. Treatment products that remove ammonia and chlorine, include:

- Water conditioning drops and tablets
- Biological filter for ammonia
- Chemical agent for chlorine

Likely, the same water conditioning drops and tablets used to treat chlorine in your fish tank will also treat chloramine, meaning no changes are necessary.

While human/animal digestive systems neutralize chloramine before it enters the bloodstream, fish, amphibians, and reptiles are vulnerable to chloramine affects because water passes directly through their gills into their bloodstream.

Will boiling water remove chloramines?

Chloramine cannot be removed by boiling water, adding salt, or letting water stand in an open container.

Need more information?

Contact your local pet store.

The North Shore Water Commission can answer questions about the timing of the conversion.

Contact: Eric Kiefer, Manager
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414- 963-0160

Dialysis Facilities and Patients

It is safe for people, including dialysis patients, to drink, cook with, and bathe in chloramine-treated water.

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What do dialysis patients and providers need to know?

It is safe for dialysis patients to drink, cook with, and bathe in chloramine-treated water because the digestive system neutralizes chloramine before it enters the blood stream. However, chloramines must be removed from the water prior to dialysis treatment.

How do we prepare for the chloramine conversion?

Home dialysis patients should check with their medical supplier and physicians to take the proper precautions. Dialysis clinics should check with their medical supplier to make necessary adjustments to their equipment.

All medical facilities performing kidney dialysis have been notified by NSWC of the conversion and will take appropriate action as required by federal regulations.

Will boiling water remove chloramines?

Chloramine cannot be removed by boiling water, adding salt, or letting water stand in an open container.

Need more information?

Contact your medical supplier or physician.

The North Shore Water Commission can answer questions about when the conversion will occur.

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414- 963-0160

Business and Industry

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Which businesses are affected?

Certain businesses using highly processed water may need to remove chloramine prior to use. Beverage manufacturers and restaurants with fish tanks are examples of companies that may need to adjust or upgrade their current filtration and treatment system.

What will affected business need to do?

Your equipment supplier or a water treatment professional can answer questions about how chloramine will impact your current system and recommend solutions to fit your business need.

Because businesses in Milwaukee and the surrounding area have been operating with chloramine water since the 1960s, solutions are readily available.

What have other companies tried?

According to other cities that have converted to chloramines, companies report adding additional activated carbon canisters to their filtration systems or increasing chemical dosages to remove chloramine.

Need More Information?

Contact your equipment supplier or current water treatment professional.

The North Shore Water Commission can answer questions about the timing of the conversion.

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