PROTECT YOUR FISH

Important Information About A Water Treatment Change That Will Affect Your Live Fish and Shellfish

On June 12, 2006, Manchester Water Works will change its disinfection process for tap water from ***chlorination*** *to* ***chloramination*** *(a combination of chlorine and ammonia) to make your drinking water safer and better tasting. This change will also affect water users served by Central Hooksett, Derry DPW, Grassmere, and certain Penacook WW customers.*

Chloramines will not affect daily water uses. However, like chlorine, chloraminated water may cause fish to die, because water is taken directly into their bloodstream.

PRECAUTIONS FOR FISH OWNERS

- Chloramines, like chlorine, will kill both salt and fresh water fish and other aquatic life, including Koi fish, lobster, shrimp, frogs, turtles, snails, clams and live coral.
- Treat chloraminated water ***BEFORE*** it is added to your tank, aquarium, pond or bowl. The carbon filter on your tank will not remove chloramines from the tap water you use.
- Customers who use tap water for aquaculture (growing plants in a water tank or pond) are encouraged to get expert advice regarding whether and how to neutralize or remove chloramines.
- Restaurants and grocery stores with lobster tanks should take special precautions to treat the water.
- Chloramine will not fully dissipate from boiling, or from water in open standing containers. You should begin treating your tap water by June 1 to prevent any harm to your fish.
- Households, restaurants and commercial fish tank owners will find dechloraminating products or carbon filtration equipment for chlorine and ammonia removal at most pet and aquarium retailers.

PRECAUTIONS FOR HOMES & BUSINESSES

Chloramines may cause some rubber or synthetic rubber materials in plumbing fixtures to degrade faster. When replacing, ask for chloramine resistant parts available at plumbing and hardware stores.

Businesses using municipal water for commercial uses in which water characteristics must be carefully controlled should contact equipment manufactureres or suppliers to find out if any changes are needed. Chloramination also might impact breweries and bakeries, as yeast and enzymes may not survive.

Home remedies, such as boiling water, using salts or having water remain still will NOT remove chloramine, which stays in water for several weeks. The only safe, effective way is to use a dechloraminating conditioner.

Important Information for Kidney Dialysis Patients

Chloraminated tap water, which has been used in the U.S. for decades, is safe for drinking, bathing, cooking and other daily water uses. ***However, dialysis patients need to take special precautions with chloraminated water.***

PRECAUTIONS FOR MEDICAL FACILITIES

Chloramines are harmful when they go directly into the bloodstream, just as chlorine in water would be toxic. ***They must be removed from water used in either hospital or home dialysis machines.***

Medical centers that perform dialysis are responsible for the removal of chloramines from the water that enters the machines.

PRECAUTIONS FOR HOME DIALYSIS

Home dialysis services will make the necessary modifications. People with additional questions or concerns should contact their physician or public health professional.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

Contact Manchester Water Works at 624-6482 or visit www.manchesternh.gov/citygov/wtr or nsf.org/consumer/drinking_water/disinfection_byproducts.asp?program=watertre

For Home Treatment Units Information visit www.nsf.org/certified/DWTU/