

What is a chloraminen?

Chloramines are formed when chlorine is combined with a small amount of ammonia.

What's the difference between chlorine and chloramine?

- Chlorine is most commonly used because it's quick, effective and safe, and is the least expensive method of water disinfection.
- Chlorine is quicker acting but is used up faster as it reacts with contaminants in the water.
- Chloramines react more slowly than chlorine, but they stay active longer.

Are chloramines safe?

Water with chloramines can be used for drinking, bathing or cooking because the body's digestive process neutralizes chloramine before it reaches the bloodstream.

Chloramination –the use of chloramines –has been employed as a final method of disinfection by water systems throughout the United States and Canada.

Kidney Dialysis

In the dialysis process, water comes in contact with the blood across a permeable membrane and must be pretreated to remove chlorine and ammonia.

Medical centers that perform dialysis are responsible for purifying the water that enters the dialysis machines. Persons with home dialysis machines should check with their physician or equipment supplier.

Can persons with kidney ailments, diabetes, or on low sodium diets drink chloraminated water?

Yes. People with medical problems can use chloraminated water for all purposes.

Fish

Chlorine and ammonia are toxic to all fish since water enters through the gill structure and goes directly in the bloodstream. Chloramines stay in the water for up to several weeks, so a special dechlorination agent must be added to remove it. Allowing the water to stand prior to adding it to the aquarium is not an effective means of elimination.

Are there special considerations for chloramines?

- Kidney dialysis
- Fish

Because of the small amount of ammonia used to form the chloramines, special water treatment is required for these customers.

Are saltwater fish affected by chloramines, too?

Yes. If the chloraminated water is to be used in a saltwater aquarium.

How much of a dechlorinating agent, or what type of filter should be used?

The Borough Water Department suggests that you check with your local pet store to determine the best treatment for your aquatic pets.

What about people who are sensitive to chemicals?

The amount of chloramines will be extremely small –no more than four parts per million as it leaves the treatment plant. The ratio will be 3¼ parts chlorine to one part ammonia to form monochloramine. If you are concerned that this small amount of ammonia could cause problems for you, check with your physician.

Do home water softeners remove chloramines?

Only if the softeners have a Granular Activated Carbon (GAC) filter.

Will reverse osmosis remove chloramines?

No. The permeable membranes can catch salts, but chloramines pass through easily.

Will chloramines harm plants?

No. It is safe to water plants of any type, including ornamentals, vegetables, fruit and nut trees.