

Chloramination

Frequently Asked Questions

Why put chlorine in the water?

In any drinking water catchment, there are many factors that may affect the quality of the drinking water. All water that we source has the potential to contain contaminants, in particular microorganisms that can cause adverse health effects. Chlorination of the water is necessary to inactivate any microorganisms that may be in the water and to ensure the water is adequately disinfected and safe to drink.

What is Chloramination?

Chloramination is one form of chlorine disinfection that can be used for disinfection of drinking water. A small amount of ammonia is added just before the chlorine is added to the water. This creates a reaction and forms a new disinfectant known as monochloramine.

Why use Chloramination?

At Crescent Head, chloramination will be used to reduce the incidence of disinfection by-products (DBP's) associated with chlorine-only treatment in this water supply. These DBP's can be potentially harmful to human health and should be minimised where possible. Chloramination will reduce the DBP's, reduce the odour and taste associated with DBP's and improve the overall quality of the water.

Is the water safe to drink?

Yes, Chloramination is a safe and effective form of disinfection for drinking water. As always, Kempsey Shire Council stringently monitors the water that we supply to ensure it complies with strict government regulations. Kempsey Shire Council's water is also continuously monitored by the NSW Health Department to ensure it meets these regulations.

Can I use it in the garden?

Yes, it is safe to use on all plants, including vegetables and fruit trees.



Council employee conducting water testing

What about dialysis machines/aquarium fish?

Water used in dialysis machines is currently filtered and this must continue. Monochloramines must be removed from the water using a granular activated carbon filter

Chloramines must be removed before water can be used in fish ponds or aquariums. Local pet shops and vets have a range of treatments such as waterconditioning agents and carbon filters that will make the chloraminated water safe for aquarium fish.

Can it be removed from the water?

Yes – by the use of a granular activated carbon filter, or in the case of aquariums, by using one of the agents recommended by a vet or pet shop.

Does anyone else use Chloramination?

Yes. Sydney Water and parts of the Yarra Valley, Geelong, Mornington Peninsula, Wodonga, South Gippsland Water use Chloramination.

Why does Council not use Chloramination in its other water supplies?

Chloramination is more expensive and more complicated to operate, compared to direct chlorination. In general chloramination is used to maintain disinfection in large distribution systems and where DBP's may be an issue. Kempsey Shire Council's other water supplies do not have issues with the formation of DBP's and do not have distribution systems large enough to require Chloramination.

How can I find out more?

Please contact Council's Customer Service Centre on 6566 3200 or email ksc@kempsey.nsw.gov.au (*Attn: Water Services – Chloramination*)

