

# Improvements are coming to your **Drinking Water**

Beginning the week of November 1, 2015.

Working with the Comox Valley Regional District, the Graham Lake Improvement District will transition the water treatment process from chlorine to chloramine in order to comply with Canadian Drinking Water Guidelines. This change will benefit the water user by reducing the levels of disinfection byproducts (DBPs) in the system, while still providing protection from waterborne disease.

DBPs are produced when chlorine reacts with naturally-occurring organic materials, such as decomposing plant material, in the raw water. Since chloramine is not as reactive as chlorine with organic materials, it produces substantially lower concentrations of DBPs.



Denman Island

See reverse side  
for more info



## **Transition** to the new treatment process

The new treatment process means that your drinking water will be disinfected with chloramine instead of chlorine. Chloramination is a common treatment process in which a small amount of ammonia diluted in water is combined with chlorinated water.

This disinfection process has been used effectively by local government and privately-owned water systems in Canada and United States for decades.

While most customers will not notice any change in their water, some might notice that the taste and odour of chlorine is reduced.

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# There are two groups of people who need to **take special care** with chloraminated water:

## 1 Kidney dialysis patients

Chloramines, like chlorine, must be removed from water used in the kidney dialysis process and from water that is used in fish tanks or ponds.

In the dialysis process, water comes in direct contact with the bloodstream and chloramine, like chlorine, would be toxic. Similar to the approach taken with chlorine, medical centers will use additives or alternative filtering methods to remove chloramine. Dialysis patients should consult their physicians if they have any questions.

### **Q. What should people with home dialysis machines do?**

A. First, check with your physician. There are home dialysis service companies who are able to make any necessary modifications if they are needed.

### **Q. Can dialysis patients drink chloraminated water?**

A. Yes. Chloraminated water can be consumed because the digestive process neutralizes the chloramine before it reaches the bloodstream. Kidney dialysis patients can drink, cook and have a bath in water treated with chloramine. Please consult your physician if you have any questions.

## 2 Fish owners

### **Q. If I let my tap water sit prior to using it for my fish tank, will it remove the chloramine?**

A. Chloramine is a very stable disinfectant and will remain in water for weeks. Generally, it is wise to remove chloramine from water used for fish or aquatic life. This additive can be picked up at most local pet stores. This will provide the maximum protection for your fish.

## The conversion to chloramines will provide the following benefits for this water system:

- Lower disinfectant residuals for customers closest to the plant
- Lower disinfection by-products in the treated water
- Better disinfectant residuals at the extremities of the system
- Lower chlorinous odours in the water

For additional information, please contact:

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Please share a copy of this notice with your tenants. It includes important information about changes we're making to the water treatment process.

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