



Chloramination – Frequently Asked Questions

Why put chemicals in the water?

Candowie Reservoir, the catchment where we store our water, is surrounded by farmland. As a result, chemical treatment is necessary to ensure the drinking water is safe.

What is Chloramination?

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.

This process reduces the 'swimming pool' odour and taste associated with chlorine-only treatment, improving the overall quality of the water.

Is the water safe to drink?

Yes. As always, Westernport Water stringently monitors the water that we supply. Additionally, there are government regulations that we have to meet.

Can I use it in the garden?

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

What about dialysis machines/aquarium fish?

Water used in dialysis machines is currently filtered and this must continue.

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 water-conditioning 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. Parts of the Yarra Valley, Geelong, Mornington Peninsula, Wodonga, South Gippsland Water, Benalla and many other Victorian areas all use chloramination

How can I find out more?

Please contact Dean Chambers, our Water Quality Officer on 1300 720 711.