

IMPORTANT ANNOUNCEMENT

KPU WATER CONVERSION INFORMATION

Safe for Use. Meets EPA Mandate

Ketchikan Public Utilities (KPU) will switch from chlorine to chloramines disinfection for drinking water in late August 2010. This project started 7 years ago, under a mandate by EPA and the State of Alaska. Largely funded by grants and low-interest loans, the project is nearing completion.

CHLORAMINE CONVERSION BASIC FACTS

- Chloramine is a combination of chlorine and a small amount of ammonia.
- Chloramines are a secondary (residual) disinfectant in the water distribution system.
- EPA drinking water regulations require a residual disinfectant in the distribution system.
- **Chloraminated water is safe** for people and animals to drink, cook with, bathe in, and all other general purposes.
- Chloramines have been used as a disinfectant for more than 90 years. Today, more than 68 million people in the U.S. use water disinfected with chloramines (*Source: EPA 1998 survey*).
- Some users will need to remove or neutralize chloramines from water before using: (e.g., granular activated carbon filters)
 - Fish, amphibian and reptile owners
 - Kidney dialysis patients

FOR MORE INFORMATION

KPU website: www.city.ketchikan.ak.us

EPA website: www.epa.gov/safewater

Or call KPU @ 225-1000 Ext. 399

WHAT YOU SHOULD KNOW...

How are fish, amphibians & reptiles affected?

Chloraminated water passes through gills, directly entering the fish, amphibian & reptile bloodstream. Chloramines must be removed as it binds to iron in red blood cell hemoglobin, causing reduced cell capacity to carry oxygen.

How do I make changes for chloramine?

Just like chlorine, chloramine needs to be removed from water for fish, amphibian & reptile use. The products listed below are available at fish and pet supply stores. Like chlorine, also test the water.

- Treatment products (drops or tablets) that remove both ammonia and chlorine, or
- Biological filter (for ammonia) and chemical agent (for chlorine).

What do dialysis patients need to know?

Chloramines are safe for kidney dialysis patients to drink, bathe in, cook with and other general uses. Like chlorine, chloramine can harm kidney dialysis patients during the dialysis process if it is not removed from water.

- Home dialysis patients should work with their home dialysis medical provider to make necessary adjustments to equipment.
- Chloramines should be removed in dialysis equipment through the use of GAC filters (granular activated carbon). It is recommended that the water treatment system contain two filters in series.

Contact your equipment provider or KPU

**Public Information Meeting: August 5, 2010
2:30 p.m. to 5 p.m. at the Ted Ferry Community Center**