Logan City Council
Water Supply Disinfection Information

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Fact Sheet

Disinfection of Drinking Water

The Australian Drinking Water Guidelines (ADWG) place a heavy emphasis on ensuring drinking water is microbiologically safe. An effective way to achieve this is by chemical disinfection.

Drinking water distributed by Logan City Council contains either chloramine or chlorine as the disinfectant. These disinfectants are used to effectively kill or inactivate a wide range of harmful micro-organisms.

Council closely monitors the level of disinfectant within the water supply, and undertakes extensive monitoring of *Escherichia coli (E. coli)* to ensure that disinfection is effective.

How much chlorine or chloramine is in my water?

Seqwater (who is responsible for treating the raw water) and Council (who distributes the treated water) normally maintain the level of disinfectants between 0.2 and 2 mg/L (parts per million). This is sufficient to protect you and your family against potential contamination of the drinking water supply, and to assist in the maintenance of the water supply network.

Council endeavours to provide a sufficient amount of disinfectant throughout our network to ensure that there is a continual barrier against potential contamination. This is consistent with world best practice.

What are chloramines?

Chloramines are disinfectants used to treat drinking water. Chloramines are most commonly formed when ammonia is added to chlorine to treat drinking water. The typical purpose of chloramines is to provide longer-lasting water treatment as the water moves through pipes to consumers. Chloramines have been used by water utilities for almost 90 years, and their use is closely regulated and safe to drink.

Are chlorine and chloramines safe?

The Australian Drinking Water Guidelines recommends that the level of total chlorine is kept below the health guideline value of 5 mg/L for chlorine and 4.1mg/L for chloramine. Council maintains the concentration of the disinfectants well below these levels.

Why can I taste or smell chlorine in my drinking water?

Many people can taste chlorine and chloramines in drinking water at levels as low as 0.6 mg/L. If you notice the taste of chlorine, we recommend that you place an unsealed jug of drinking water in the fridge for a few hours. The chlorine taste will normally disappear. Activated carbon filters are another method that can also remove the taste.

Council has a number of locations where we can re-chlorinate drinking water to maintain disinfection or as part of our network disinfection maintenance program. If you live close to these locations, at times you may notice a stronger taste or smell of chlorine in your water.

What are Trihalomethanes?

Chemical disinfectants can react with naturally occurring organic compounds in drinking water to create disinfection by-products. The most common disinfection by-products are trihalomethanes (THMs). Seqwater and Council monitors for THMs, and consistently keep them below the health guideline value of 0.25 mg/L. While it is important to minimise disinfection by-products, disinfection must not be compromised, as non-disinfected water poses a significantly greater risk to public health.

For more information
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