



Water Chlorination Program

Frequently Asked Questions

Why is chlorine added to the water and how long will it remain?

Chlorine is used because it is an effective disinfectant. It is a naturally occurring element that when used in a specific formulation will eradicate bacteria and prevent water-borne diseases. Chlorine has been added, at low concentrations, to our distribution system, where it will remain until we have completed our annual hydrant flushing program in October.

How can I remove the smell and taste of chlorine from the water?

We add as little chlorine as possible to the water while still maintaining an adequate level for disinfection. We understand that some customers may detect and object to the smell and taste of chlorine. Fortunately both the smell and taste can be eliminated easily by refrigerating tap water in a sealed container, preferably glass or plastic soda bottles, until the water is chilled. Either chilled or straight from the tap, the water is perfectly safe to drink.

Can I expect this to happen again?

Several other communities in the area also chlorinate, or increase existing chlorine levels, during the summer months to combat nuisance bacteria. Unfortunately, Littleton's water system is no longer the exception and we are considering making this treatment an annual summer event as a preventative measure. Any additional questions, please call us at (978) 486-3104.

Please share this information with all the other people who drink this water, especially those that may not have received this notice directly (for example, people in apartments, nursing homes, schools and businesses). You can do this by posting this notice in a public place or distributing copies by hand or mail.

For more information about chlorine disinfection, please visit American Water Works Association--Chlorine for Drinking Water Disinfection at www.awwa.org/Advocacy/govtaff/chldrpap.cfm.