



THE CITY OF SAN DIEGO

Water Department

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Dialysis Patients and Fish Owners Take Special Note Water Purification Method to Change Temporarily

The City of San Diego's Water Department will implement a temporary disinfectant change from chloramines to free chlorine, beginning Nov. 28, 2005 to Dec. 16, 2005. Chloramines, a combination of chlorine and ammonia, are generally used to disinfect water. It is a common practice for water utilities using chloramines to periodically switch to chlorine alone, known as free chlorine, to maintain optimal levels of disinfection within the water distribution system.

During this change to free chlorine, San Diegans may notice a slight change in the taste or smell of their tap water. While the taste and smell of chlorine may be more noticeable, it remains safe to drink. To minimize the taste and smell, keep an open pitcher of water in the refrigerator for drinking. Cold water tastes better and the chlorine will naturally dissipate as it sits in the pitcher.

Dialysis patients and fish owners need to make adjustments during this period to remove chlorine. Dialysis treatment centers are well equipped to handle a change in primary disinfectants. If you have any questions or concerns, please contact your local dialysis treatment provider. Fish aquarium and pond owners need to be aware of this change as well, and must always ensure they are taking appropriate steps to remove chloramines or chlorine from their water.

For more information, please visit www.sandiego.gov/water. If you have any questions regarding the quality of water we deliver, please contact the Water Quality Lab at (619) 668-3232.

The Water Department maintains the water system that serves San Diego, and provides treated water service to the City of Del Mar, and wholesale water service to the California-American Water Company delivering water to Coronado, Imperial Beach, and portions of southern San Diego. This includes the treatment and delivery of more than 200 million gallons of water that is transported daily through more than 3,000 miles of pipelines. For more information about the Water Department's programs and services, please visit www.sandiego.gov/water or call (619) 515-3500 for general information.

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