

Chlorine treatment in our water supplies



We have a number of ways of treating water in our nine urban water supply areas, including filtration, UV disinfection and chlorination.

Read more on the other side.

Why use chlorine?

Chlorine has been used effectively around the world for more than 100 years as part of the water treatment process.

While UV disinfection at the treatment plants is effective in killing micro-organisms that can cause illness, there is no guarantee that it remains effective throughout the reticulation. Once water passes through the UV disinfection unit it no longer has any residual protection and can become contaminated. Chlorine stays in the water throughout its journey to the tap killing any harmful micro-organisms all the way.

In the amounts we add to our water supplies, it poses no threat to human health and is tasteless and odourless. What can sometimes be identified is the reaction with natural chemical and biological matter in the water. If you can smell chlorine, it is because it has been doing what it is supposed to be doing: killing micro-organisms and removing chemicals. If you can't smell it, that's better because there was not enough material for the chlorine to react with.

Should any consumers be particularly sensitive to the slight chlorine odour that may be experienced from time-to-time, a jug of water can be left in the fridge for several hours and the smell will dissipate.

By early 2018 all nine of our Council urban water schemes will have chlorine added to them. Our schemes in Matatoki and the Thames Valley have limited disinfection, are primarily for stock and are classified as rural supplies. For a number of years now, we have been advising any households who choose to use this water to install point-of-use treatment systems or to boil for potable water use.

If you have any questions about our water services, please contact our Council's Customer Services team on 07 868 0200 or customer.services@tcdc.govt.nz

Or visit our website: www.tcdc.govt.nz/watersupply



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