

Sources of Information about Chloramine

At several Bay Area Water Supply and Conservation Agency (BAWSCA) board meetings, members of the public have made statements that chloramine in the water causes health problems. BAWSCA has neither the medical expertise to address these statements nor responsibility for treating the water. BAWSCA wants to be helpful, so it produced this flyer to direct concerned citizens to sources of additional information.

The San Francisco Public Utilities Commission (SFPUC) operates the regional water system that provides water to 0.7 million people in San Francisco, and to 28 agencies that serve 1.7 million people in Alameda, Santa Clara, and San Mateo counties. The SFPUC currently disinfects the water it provides using chloramine.

The San Francisco Public Utilities Commission (SFPUC) changed the residual disinfectant from free chlorine to chloramine in February 2004. BAWSCA's predecessor – BAWUA, has worked closely with the SFPUC since 1996 to prepare for this conversion. Chloramine is a disinfectant produced by combining chlorine (i.e., bleach) with small amounts of ammonia. The primary reason to use chloramine instead of chlorine for residual disinfection is to protect public health by reducing the amount of potentially carcinogenic disinfection byproducts and to meet more stringent regulatory requirements. Chloramine has been used for disinfection in the United States since 1914 and the majority of large water suppliers in California disinfect water with chloramine. The SFPUC is the last major Bay Area water utility to convert to chloramine.

Chloramine is one of the two residual disinfectants approved by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the California Department of Health Services (CDHS). In March 2005 the California Conference of Local Health Officers (CCLHO) issued a statement confirming the effectiveness and safety of chloramine for residual disinfection of the drinking water supply. Water utilities monitor water quality throughout their system to ensure adequate disinfection is provided.

A list of questions and answers prepared by San Francisco about chloramination can be found by going to the SFPUC website, <http://sfwater.org>. Click on "At your service," then on "Water Quality " and then on "Chloramine."

The CCLHO statement can also be found at the above web address.

In addition, the San Francisco Department of Public Health prepared a memorandum discussing some of the rationale behind the conversion to chloramines as a disinfectant for San Francisco's water as well as health effects of both chlorine and chloramine. This memo can be viewed at the above SFPUC web site.

For More Information

Questions regarding the health aspects of chloramines should be directed to State or county health officials, or your personal health care practitioner.

Health Departments:

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| – Alameda County: | (510) 267-8000 | – Santa Clara County: | (408) 423-0700 |
| – San Mateo County: | (650)-372-8572 | – City & County of San Francisco: | (415) 252-3968 |
| – California Department of Health Services | (916) 445-4171 | | |
- www.dhs.ca.gov/ps/ddwem/

Another source of chloramine information is the **US Environmental Protection Agency, Safe Drinking Water Hotline**, (800) 426-4791 or their website at www.epa.gov/safewater



155 Bovet Road, Suite 302 San Mateo, CA 94402
Phone: (650) 349-3000 Fax: (650) 349-8395

Local Water Agencies

For information regarding your local water supply, contact your local water provider listed below:

County	Water Provider	Communities served (all or portions of)	Telephone No.
Alameda	Alameda County Water District	Fremont, Newark, Union City and nearby unincorporated areas	(510) 668-4200
	City of Hayward	Hayward and nearby unincorporated areas	(510) 583-4727
San Mateo	City of Burlingame	Burlingame and nearby unincorporated areas	(650) 558-7200
	Cal Water Service - Bear Gulch	Atherton, Los Altos, Menlo Park, Portola Valley, Woodside	(650) 367-6800
	Cal Water Service – Bayshore	San Carlos, San Mateo, South San Francisco, Colma, Daly City	(650) 558-7800
	Coastside County Water District	Half Moon Bay, El Granada, Miramar, and Princeton by the Sea	(650) 726-4405
	City of Daly City	Daly City and nearby unincorporated areas	(650) 991-8200
	City of East Palo Alto	East Palo Alto, Menlo Park and nearby unincorporated areas	(650) 853-3189
	Estero Municipal Improvement District	City of Foster City and San Mateo	(650) 286-3270
	City of Brisbane and Guadalupe Valley MID	Brisbane and nearby unincorporated areas	(415) 508-2130
	City of Menlo Park	Menlo Park and nearby unincorporated areas	(650) 330-6740
	Mid-Peninsula Water District	City of Belmont and portions of San Carlos	(650) 591-8941
	City of Millbrae	Millbrae and nearby unincorporated areas	(650) 259-2375
	North Coast County Water District	Pacifica and nearby unincorporated areas	(650) 355-3462
	City of Redwood City	Redwood City (portions unincorporated San Mateo Co., San Carlos & Woodside)	(650) 780-7464
	City of San Bruno	San Bruno and nearby unincorporated areas	(650) 616-7160
	Skyline Co. Water District	Woodside and areas south and north of Hwy 92	(650) 851-0529
	Town of Hillsborough	Hillsborough and nearby unincorporated areas	(650) 375-7444
Westborough County Water District	South San Francisco, Daly City	(650) 589-1435	
Santa Clara	City of Milpitas	Milpitas and portions of San Jose	(408)-586-2600
	City of Mountain View	Mountain View and nearby unincorporated areas	(650) 903-6329
	City of Palo Alto	Palo Alto and nearby unincorporated areas	(650)-496-6967
	Purissima Hills Water District	Los Altos, Los Altos Hills	(650) 948-1217
	Stanford University	Stanford University	(650) 725-8030
	City of San Jose - North	North San Jose/Alviso	(408) 277-4036
	City of Santa Clara	Santa Clara and nearby unincorporated areas	(408) 615-2000
	City of Sunnyvale	Sunnyvale and nearby unincorporated areas	(408) 730-7510

BAWSCA represents the interests of 26 cities and water districts, and two private utilities, that purchase water wholesale from the San Francisco regional water system. These water agencies provide water to 1.7 million people, businesses and community organizations in Alameda, Santa Clara and San Mateo counties. BAWSCA's goals are to ensure a reliable, high-quality water supply at a fair price. BAWSCA's work currently focuses on getting the regional water system rebuilt to withstand seismic events.