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WE HAVE LISTED SOME OF THE MOST FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS ABOUT OUR CONVERSION FROM CHLORINE DISINFECTION TO CHLORAMINES:

Q. What are chloramines?

A. Chloramines are chlorine with a small amount of ammonia in the water often referred to as combined chlorine. Chloramines are used to disinfect drinking water.

Q. Why did FGUA convert to chloramines?

A. Pasco County Utilities began converting its water disinfection from chlorine to chloramines in the first quarter of 2005. FGUA has converted, as well, so that our water will remain compatible. The conversion is to meet more stringent health standards imposed by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA).

Q. Is chloramine disinfection common?

A. Yes. Almost a quarter of local governments in the U.S. currently use chloramines as a secondary disinfectant. Several cities, including the City of Tampa, have used chloramines for years, demonstrating the effectiveness of this treatment method. Within our own area, portions of Pasco, Pinellas and northern Hillsborough counties have already introduced chloramines.

Q. Are chloramines harmful to anyone?

A. Chloramines can be harmful to kidney dialysis patients and fish aquariums if the water is not treated properly. For both groups, chloramines must be removed prior to treatment or interacting with fish.

Q. Does my kidney dialysis center or hospital know about chloramine conversion?

A. FGUA is proactively contacting and distributing information to dialysis centers and hospitals in its service territory. Patients should also check with their dialysis center for a recommendation on the proper type of water treatment for their dialysis machines.

Q. How will chloramines impact fish owners?

A. Water directly passes through the gills to the bloodstream of fresh and saltwater fish, some amphibians and other marine animals. Chloramines can be harmful if they come into direct contact

with the bloodstream. For this reason, chloramines must be removed from the water prior to adding fish to fish tanks, aquariums or ponds.

Q. How can fish owners remove chloramines prior to adding water to fish tanks?

A. There are two ways fish owners can remove chloramines; adding a water conditioning agent (de-chloraminant) or an activated carbon filter. Some fish owners may use a water conditioning agent that already removes chloramines. Pet store owners can advise on which de-chloraminants are available. If you use an activated carbon filter, you need to allow for sufficient contact time between the water and the filter prior to adding the fish to the tank, aquarium or pond. Check with your local pet stores or pet supplier for information on de-chloramination products and instructions.

Q. Will I notice a difference in my water?

A. Some customers may experience temporary changes in water taste or odor. However, many people report an improvement in the way their drinking water tastes and smells because they no longer detect chlorine in their water.

Q. Can I drink and cook with chloraminated water?

A. Yes. There are no known harmful impacts of chloraminated water on drinking or cooking. Chloraminated water should not impact your daily living habits.

Q. How will I treat my swimming pool?

A. You may find a slight increase in chlorine demand, which would require you to add a little more chlorine than usual.

Q. Will chloramines affect my home filtration system?

A. You may have to change the filter more often depending on your system and the filter you use. Check with the manufacturer to determine if your filter removes chloramines.

Q. How will chloramines affect my plants?

A. Chloramines will not affect plants, vegetables, fruit or nut trees.