

Free Chlorine Flush Information

LCU normally uses chloramines as its form of disinfection, which is a combination of chlorine and ammonia. During the free chlorine flush, the water treatment plant does not add ammonia to the water.

Why do you need to perform this routine measure?

Chloramines are a more stable form of disinfection, so by changing to free chlorine which is a more aggressive disinfectant, it denies bacteria the ability to form resistances to the normal disinfection process.

Why do you use chloramines instead of free chlorine throughout most of the year?

Due to the size of our distribution system, since chloramines are more stable, it allows for the disinfection residual to remain longer in the pipes. Using chloramines also lowers the levels of disinfection by-products, which are possible carcinogens that can form when chlorine is mixed with natural organic substances in water.

Is free chlorine and chloramines safe?

Yes, both methods are approved and effective forms of disinfection. LCU follows the state guidelines on the maximum and minimum levels of disinfection allowed in drinking water.

What type of changes will I experience?

Most customers may not experience any changes to the taste and odor of their water, however some customers may detect a slight chemical odor or smell like water in a swimming pool, depending on their sensitivity.

Why are kidney dialysis and tropical fish owners warned of these changes?

Precautions must be taken to remove or neutralize chlorine and chloramines during the kidney dialysis process and in the preparation of water for fish tanks and ponds.

We have seen multiple hydrants being flushed in our neighborhood. Is this part of the free chlorine flush?

Yes, the flushing of hydrants during the free chlorine flush is used to draw the water into the distribution to ensure that all parts of the system are receiving the free chlorinated water. However, flushing is a normal operating procedure for utilities to maintain the distribution system and flushing can occur during other times of the years.

If I don't like the smell or taste of the chlorine, what can I do?

Chlorine can be removed through boiling the water or filling a container and allowing it to vent. There are also some filtration devices that can be used to remove chlorine.