

COMMON HEALTH QUESTIONS RELATED TO MONOCHLORAMINE

22) Can chloraminated or chlorinated water be used for dialysis or in an aquarium?

Chloraminated or chlorinated water may need additional treatment if used for specialized purposes.

- Water utilities typically provide health care agencies and organizations with information about their disinfection processes.
- Water utilities typically provide consumers with information about disinfection processes.
- Water utilities consult with regulatory authorities about major changes in their water treatment processes.

Chlorine and **monochloramine** must be removed prior to use in kidney dialysis machines.¹

- Chlorine and chloramines or must be removed from water used in dialysis machines because this water comes into direct contact with blood.
- Dialysis patients should consult with their physicians if they have concerns about using chlorinated or chloraminated water.
- Dialysis patients can safely drink chlorinated or chloraminated water.²

Chlorine and **monochloramine** must be neutralized or removed if used in aquariums.

- Chlorine and monochloramine can be harmful to fish because they directly enter their bloodstream through the gills.
- Chlorine and monochloramine can also prevent the growth of beneficial bacteria that are necessary for healthy fish tanks.
- Chlorinated and chloraminated water can be safely used in aquariums by using products readily available from aquarium supply stores.

Additional Supporting Information:

1. A 1988 FDA Safety Alert on chloramines and dialysis is available at:

<http://www.fda.gov/cdrh/safety/021988-chloramine.pdf>.

2. Dialysis patients with severely compromised immune systems should consult with their physician before consuming any type of water.