COMMON HEALTH QUESTIONS RELATED TO MONOCHLORAMINE

29) How can I remove monochloramine from my drinking water?

EPA believes that drinking water disinfected with monochloramine that meets regulatory standards is safe to use and it does not need to be removed.[1]

- EPA drinking water regulations limit monochloramine use to levels where no adverse health effects are anticipated.
- Water utilities must test drinking water regularly to make sure it is within EPA regulatory limits.
- EPA's regulatory standard for monochloramine in drinking water provides a wide margin of safety[2] to offset any uncertainties in risk assessments.

Monochloramine can be more difficult to remove from drinking water than chlorine.

- Boiling water does not remove monochloramine from drinking water.
- Allowing water to sit at room temperature does not remove monochloramine from drinking water.
- Reverse osmosis filters[3] do not remove monochloramine from drinking water.

Commercial products are available that indicate that they remove monochloramine from drinking water.

- Commercial products that remove monochloramine from drinking water often contain certifications describing their effectiveness.[3]
- Some home treatment systems and water filters[3] may remove monochloramine. [4]
- EPA does not test or certify home treatment systems or filters[3] that may remove monochloramine from drinking water.

Additional Supporting Information:

1. See question 14 for information on how EPA evaluated safety of monochloramine use as a drinking water disinfectant.
2. For additional information regarding how uncertainty factors (also known as safety factors) are applied to risk assessments to provide a wide margin of safety see: http://epa.gov/risk/dose-response.htm.
3. To search for household water treatment units certified to remove chlorine and/ or chloramine use the following link and search by Product standard NSF/ANSI 42: Drinking Water Treatment Units, aesthetic Effects. http://www.wqa.org/sitelogic.cfm?id=1165&section=3. Also, use the following link and select "chloramines reduction" and then click on search: http://www.nsf.org/certified/dwtu/. Mention of trade names or commercial products does not constitute endorsement or recommendation for use.
4. See question 22 for information regarding removing monochloramine for aquarium use.