

ANNUAL WATER TREATMENT: Possible Chlorine Odor, but safe to use!



Every year, federal AND state law REQUIRES Johnston County to change the way your water is treated. In the Clayton area (including Town of Clayton, Aqua & Carolina Water Service customers), water is normally treated with a combination of chlorine and ammonia. However, for 6 weeks in late February and March, ONLY chlorine will be used. This routine chlorine disinfection, followed by a system flush, helps ensure our drinking water is safe by removing bacteria that may have adapted to the ammonia. (***)The Riverwood Community is treated all year round with chlorine-only, so that neighborhood will see NO change.)

IS THE WATER SAFE TO DRINK? Absolutely! It's safe for drinking, cooking, bathing and other household uses. This disinfection has been required every March for years now with NO major problems. Towns like Smithfield, Cary, Apex, Raleigh and Durham do the exact same disinfecting in March too.

WILL IT SMELL LIKE A SWIMMING POOL? Most customers won't notice ANY difference in the water AT ALL, but some of you may pick up on a stronger chlorine taste or odor. You might also notice minor changes in the color of the water. Again, despite those changes, the water IS safe to drink. We'll be doing regular testing as usual just to make sure.

ATTENTION KIDNEY DIALYSIS PATIENTS AND FISH OWNERS! As these two sensitive groups probably know, ammonia and chlorine can be harmful for dialysis patients and fish. Please continue with the special precautions you already take to remove these chemicals from water, but also be aware that your water will contain MORE chlorine for about six weeks and will return to a chlorine and ammonia mixture in early April.

CAN I DO ANYTHING ABOUT THE SMELL, TASTE OR COLOR?

- Filter with activated carbon. Pitchers with filters are sold at most major retail stores.
- Boil the water for one minute to evaporate the chlorine.
- Let water sit in an open container in the refrigerator for several days to allow the chlorine to "bubble" out.
- Add a few lemon slices to a pitcher of water. The ascorbic acid will neutralize the chlorine.
- Check water before washing whites. If water is discolored, try flushing all the house faucets for a few minutes.

If you notice a color change, flush your water lines. First, turn on all the taps OUTSIDE your home, like where your garden hose is connected. It should only take a minute or two for the water to return to normal. When the outside runs clear, go inside to each faucet, remove any filter and run the water until it clear. By clearing the outside lines first, the inside lines should only take seconds to run clear. Replace any filters when you are finished.

If a color change cannot be cleared by flushing lines in your house or business, or if you have any questions about this change, please call Town of Clayton Public Works at 919-553-1530. If you are not a Town of Clayton customer, call Johnston County Public Utilities, at 919-989-5075.