



Free Chlorine Conversion Frequently Asked Questions

What is a *free chlorine conversion*? This is a process by which a water system periodically switches its disinfection process from chloramines (a combination of chlorine and ammonia) to free chlorine in order to improve the long term quality of its drinking water.

Why is BJWSA implementing a *free chlorine conversion*? To improve the overall water quality in our distribution system.

Is this the first time that BJWSA has implemented a *free chlorine conversion*? No. This is an annual process.

Are *free chlorine conversions* a common practice among water systems? Yes. This is a common industry standard for preventative maintenance in drinking water distribution systems. Many utilities throughout the state and country that use chloramines for their primary distribution disinfectant convert to free chlorine on an “as needed” basis.

How long will the *free chlorine conversion* last? The duration of the *free chlorine conversion* is approximately 14 days .

Does the *free chlorine conversion* pose any health risks? Will the water be safe to drink and use? The process is entirely safe and poses no health risks to customers. The water is safe to drink and customers can use the water as normal. Allowing the water to sit out will reduce the chlorine odor.

Will I need to do anything differently during the conversion? No action is necessary during the conversion. Customers may drink and use their water as normal.

Why all the flushing? BJWSA must directional flush to maintain clear water for our customers and to ensure the free chlorine conversion has made it to the far reaches of our distribution system. Flushing should significantly subside after the termination of the conversion.

I have discolored water. What do I do? Flush toilets, bathtubs and faucets until your water clear. If it continues please call BJWSA.

My water has a strong chlorine smell. What is going on? A chlorine smell is very normal during the conversion period, as the disinfectant is transitioning from chloramines to free chlorine. Chlorine concentrations maintained during the conversion will be well within DHEC and EPA standards and will be entirely safe to consume and use as normal.

I have a fish tank. How will it affect my fish? Processes in place to remove chloramines in water will remove free chlorine. No change or adjustment should be needed.