

# CHLORINE MAINTENANCE

**APRIL 10 - 24, 2023**

As part of annual, routine system maintenance, the Gulf Coast Water Authority (GCWA) will temporarily change its water disinfection process from a combination of chlorine and ammonia (chloramine) to chlorine only.

This annual routine maintenance practice allows GCWA and the communities it serves the opportunity to flush their water systems to prevent taste and odor problems that can occur during summer months.

Water users may notice some water discoloration, cloudiness or chlorine smell during the disinfection period. These conditions are harmless and temporary. The chlorine maintenance process has not been linked to any adverse health effects.

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## SPECIAL NOTE



Owners of fish and reptiles should follow standard water treatments using products that remove both chlorine and chloramine from the water.

Dialysis centers will continue to treat the water to remove all chemical disinfectants, including chlorine and chloramine, before the water is used for dialysis. Home dialysis users should consult their machine manufacturers for instructions on how to properly treat their water before use.

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## WHO

All Galveston County communities except League City, Friendswood, and Bolivar Water users. can contact their local municipality or water district for questions about the water system disinfection.

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## QUESTIONS OR CONCERNS

Contact your local municipality or water district. As part of the disinfection process, municipalities and water districts will flush their systems by opening fire hydrants, which should remedy any issues.

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# Frequently Asked Questions

## **Why does drinking water need to be disinfected?**

Water disinfection has been critical in improving drinking water quality in the United States and has been standard practice in the U.S. for more than a century. According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, American drinking water supplies are among the safest in the world.

## **What is chloramine, and why does the GCWA use it?**

Chloramine is an effective disinfectant that works over a long period of time, particularly in areas with high temperatures like Texas.

## **What are drinking water requirements in Texas, and who regulates water quality?**

Public water systems must disinfect water before it enters the distribution system that carries it through pipes to customers. The Texas Commission on Environmental Quality regulates drinking water in the state.

## **Where does drinking water for Galveston County communities served by GCWA come from?**

Water from the Brazos River Basin is treated at the Gulf Coast Water Authority's water treatment plant in Texas City. The plant has the capacity to treat more than 50 million gallons of water a day to serve approximately 190,000 consumers in Galveston County.

## **What kind of water testing is done routinely, and what will be done during maintenance?**

The water treatment plant staff has continuous online analyzers and routinely tests its water every 4 hours, as the federal Safe Drinking Water Act mandates. This level of testing will continue throughout the maintenance period.

## **What is the list of cities impacted?**

### **Municipalities and water utilities include:**

- Bacliff MUD
- Bayview MUD
- Bayou Vista (Galveston County MUD #12)
- Dickinson (Galveston County WCID #1)
- Galveston Island
- Hitchcock
- Kemah (Galveston County WCID #12)
- La Marque
- San Leon MUD
- Santa Fe (Galveston County WCID #8)
- Texas City
- Tiki Island (GCFWSD #6)

## **ABOUT GULF COAST WATER AUTHORITY**

GCWA maintains an extensive system to deliver up to 200 million gallons of water a day from the Brazos River, our primary water source, to wholesale water customers across Brazoria, Galveston, and Fort Bend Counties.

Read more at: <https://www.gulfcoastwaterauthoritytx.gov>.

