



Chlorine Taste and Odour

Why does my water taste and smell like chlorine, bleach, swimming pool water, antiseptic?

All public drinking water supplies are disinfected with chlorine. This can sometimes be noticeable to customers.

Why is chlorine used in Perth's water supply?

Chlorine is accepted worldwide as a safe and effective method of disinfecting drinking water supplies. The Water Corporation adds chlorine to all water supply sources to provide a disinfection barrier against possible bacteriological contamination. To provide efficient disinfection, we aim to maintain a chlorine concentration throughout the water supply system.

Why does my chlorine level differ from houses in other areas?

Chlorine taste and odour varies depending on the distance of the customer from the chlorination point.

Is the chlorine level in the water supply safe to drink?

The Water Corporation adds chlorine to water supplies in accordance with the requirements of the Department of Health. The health guideline set for the maximum concentration of chlorine in drinking water supplies is 5 mg/L (milligrams per litre or parts per million). Typically, the Water Corporation adds approximately 1 mg/L chlorine at the source. This decreases as the water travels through the system. A residual target of 0.6 mg/L is used as a taste and odour threshold, however some customers receive residuals greater than this in order for the Corporation to maintain an effective disinfectant residual throughout the entire water supply system.

How can I remove chlorine from the water?

Chlorine can be easily removed from drinking water by:

- Exposing the water to sunlight for a number of hours (eg. let the water stand in a covered clear container on a window sill or similar).
- Adding freshly squeezed lemon juice (7 drops per litre) to the water (to assist in removing chlorine)
- Chilling the water will reduce the chlorine taste.

What is the Water Corporation doing to minimise the noticeable chlorine?

The Water Corporation regularly monitors and adjusts the residual chlorine on all water supply systems to ensure optimum performance and minimal customer impact.

What should I do if I experience an unusually strong chlorine taste or odour in the water?

Contact the Water Corporation's 24 hour Service Faults and Emergencies on **13 13 75**

To the best of the knowledge of the Water Corporation, its directors, officers and staff, the information provided in this bulletin is correct, scientifically accurate and supported by current data. The statements made in this bulletin are based on Australian and international standards in effect as at the time of publication.