

NORTH TEXAS MUNICIPAL WATER DISTRICT

Chlorine Maintenance

The North Texas Municipal Water District (NTMWD) has scheduled a chlorine maintenance that will be conducted on the NTMWD Wylie, Tawakoni, and Bonham water transmission systems and customers' distribution systems for the 28-day period of March 7, 2016 through April 4, 2016. Annually, NTMWD performs chlorine maintenance prior to the warm months of the year.

Why does the NTMWD perform chlorine maintenance?

The Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) allows water suppliers to perform chlorine maintenance to help reduce the need for water suppliers to flush systems in order to maintain chloramine residuals (required by the TCEQ) during the warm weather periods, thus conserving water. The flushing of water lines, during warm weather periods, maintains water quality to ensure the water supply is safe for human use and consumption.

What are chloramines?

The NTMWD utilizes chloramines, a combination of chlorine and ammonia, to provide the disinfectant residual in the transmission and distribution systems as required by the TCEQ. Chloramines provide a longer lasting residual disinfection in water pipelines and storage facilities. During the chlorine maintenance period, the disinfection residual consist of chlorine alone without the ammonia.

Why do water suppliers flush water, typically from the fire hydrants, during warm weather periods?

NTMWD continuously monitors water quality to ensure it meets or exceeds state and federal standards. If water tests indicate the disinfectant concentration has dissipated to levels that would affect water quality, water suppliers will flush the water within the pipes so that water with a higher level of disinfectant is present. Water providers must maintain water quality that is safe for human consumption and use.

Does this process affect drinking water quality?

The chlorine maintenance does not have a negative effect on water quality; the water remains safe for use and consumption. During the chlorine maintenance period, consumers who are sensitive to odor or taste changes in the water might notice a stronger smell or taste of chlorine. This odor and palatability change does not alter the quality of the drinking water provided to consumers.

NTMWD continuously monitors water quality to ensure it meets or exceeds state and federal standards.

- NTMWD conducts more than 250,000 water quality tests per year (average of 685 tests per day).
- NTMWD monitors and tests the water coming into our supply and the treated water leaving our facilities for delivery to the NTMWD Member Cities and Customers.
- NTMWD Member Cities and Customers monitor and test the water they store and deliver to residents and businesses.
- NTMWD publishes monthly and annual water quality reports that can be found on the website: https://ntmwd.com/water_quality.html

Is the chlorine maintenance being conducted as a response to the Flint, Michigan water supply issue?

No, there are no lead pipes in the NTMWD water system; however, some older homes may still have lead pipes or lead-based solder that could leach lead into their water under certain conditions. The NTMWD operates the treatment process to prevent leaching of these metals into the water.

Who do I contact if I have questions?

If you have any questions regarding this maintenance, please contact:

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