

## **Charlotte County Utilities Temporary Free Chlorine Conversion FAQs**

### **What is a free chlorine conversion?**

A free chlorine conversion occurs when a water system that uses chloramines, removes the ammonia (needed to form chloramines) from the treatment process, and disinfects the water with only “free” chlorine.

### **What is chloramine?**

Chloramine is a safe, long-lasting disinfectant added to public drinking water for disinfection. It is formed by combining chlorinated water with a small amount of ammonia. It is commonly used for disinfection in many public water systems throughout the United States.

### **Are free chlorine conversions a common practice among water systems?**

Yes. Free chlorine conversions are a common industry practice for preventative maintenance in drinking water distribution systems. Many utilities throughout the state and country that use chloramines as their primary distribution disinfectant periodically convert to free chlorine to improve and maintain the highest water quality standards. The Florida Department of Environmental Protection recommends free chlorine conversions.

### **What will I see going on during the process?**

Utilities personnel will systematically flush fire hydrants throughout neighborhoods to distribute the changed disinfectant in the system and clean the potable water transmission lines.

### **Is the water safe to drink?**

Yes, the water will be safe to drink throughout the entire process.

### **What will I notice during the temporary free chlorine conversion process?**

#### **The temporary change may cause:**

- some discoloration or cloudiness in the water
- minor pressure fluctuations
- small air pockets
- a chlorine odor and/or taste

### **How will the temporary free chlorine conversion process affect me?**

Customers on kidney dialysis who use a proportioning machine to prepare dialysate at home are advised to contact their physician or equipment supplier to obtain the appropriate steps to accommodate the change in water disinfection and to install the proper filtering devices if needed.

The change in the disinfection process may cause customers to experience eye or skin irritations and other possible effects, like swimming pools that use “free” chlorine-as a disinfectant.

Customers using the water for aquariums should monitor the chlorine residuals and are advised to contact a professional aquarist to ensure proper pretreatment of the water before adding or changing the water in the tank to avoid any problems associated with chlorine.

### **When did the last temporary free chlorine conversion occur?**

The last conversion occurred in 2023.

### **How long is the temporary free chlorine conversion?**

The conversion is from April 22, 2025, through May 2, 2025.