



**New Disinfection Process** - In 2012 Rome Water Utility implemented a new disinfection process due to a rise in organic substances in wells 3 and 4. While we met all standards established by water quality experts, we needed to be pro-active in continuing to meet stated guidelines.

Prior to July 23, 2012 we used chlorine alone as our disinfection product. Starting on July 23, 2012 we switched our disinfection product to a combination of chlorine with ammonia. This mixture, known as chloramines, continues to be used at Rome Water Utility today to control the rise in organics.

**Is it Safe?** Yes, chloramines have been used safely in the United States and Canada for many years. Recent disinfection choices by utilities have been to switch to chloramines. **Chloraminated water is safe for bathing, drinking, cooking and all everyday uses.**

**Who can be affected?** Two groups of people need to take special care with chloraminated water: **Kidney dialysis patients and fish owners.** Chloramines are harmful when they go directly into the bloodstream. In dialysis, water comes in contact with the blood across a permeable membrane. Just as chlorine in dialysis is toxic, so are chloramines. Chloramines must be removed from water used in kidney dialysis machines. If you have used water from Rome Water Utility in dialysis, please consult with your physician or home dialysis service companies to ensure the chloramines are removed.

**Fish Owners Need to Take Precautions with Chloramines:** Chloramines should be removed from water that is used in fish tanks and ponds. This includes lobster tanks at grocery stores and restaurants as well as fish containers at a bait shop. **Chloramines are toxic to fish, reptiles, turtles and amphibians.** Even though chlorine is toxic as well, since it dissipates quickly, you may not have had to remove it from your aquarium water. This is **NOT** the case with chloramines, and steps must be taken to remove chloramines. Chloramines can be removed from the water by using a water conditioner which contains a de-chlorinator or by using granular activated carbon. If you use Rome Water Utility water in an aquarium, please consult with your aquarium product supplier to ensure you are removing chloramines from the water.

Thank you  
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