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**FAQs: Chlorine in the water supply**

Council has put together answers to commonly asked questions on the chlorination of the water supply. Please check here to see if the answer to your question is on the list. If not, feel free to contact us. Phone: 871 5000; email customerservice@hdc.govt.nz, or message us on Facebook: Hastings District Council.

**What amount of chlorine is going into the Esk water system?**

The initial dose rate is one part per million.  This will be adjusted as the residual levels are monitored.

**What is the level Council is aiming for across the system?**

We are targeting a residual chlorine level of 0.7 parts per million (ppm). This will vary in the system depending on distance and location in the network.  The Drinking Water Standards allow a range residual chlorine in the reticulation from a minimum 0.2 parts per million up to 1.5 ppm.

**Is Council testing chlorine levels at different points across the system?**

Yes, Council is testing chlorine levels at points across the Esk water supply reticulation.

**Why does the water smell odd now that it has been chlorinated?**

It is possible you may notice an earthy smell for the next 24 to 48 hours. This is a natural reaction to chlorine being newly added to a water supply. This is harmless and will settle down after that time.

**What is the product going in? Is there ammonia in it?**

The water system is being dosed with Sodium Hypochlorite. This does not contain ammonia.

**How much is in a public swimming pool?**

A public swimming pool typically has in the order of 10 times more chlorine than the water supply reticulation.

**How long will the boil water notice be on in Esk system (estimated)?**

The boiled water notice will remain in place until Council and the health authorities are certain that the water supply is safe for drinking.

**What were the results that led to the chlorination?**

Council received a positive result for e-Coli today from samples taken from the Esk water system yesterday.

**What is the best way to boil water to ensure it is safe to drink?**

Boiling water will kill all disease-causing organisms. Place the water in a clean metal pan and bring to a rolling boil for one minute. Electric jugs with a cut-off switch can be used as long as they are full – allow the water to come to the boil and switch off. Do not hold the switch down to increase the boiling time. Boiling water should be covered and allowed to cool in the same container. The taste will improve if allowed to stand for a few hours before use.

**Can drinking chlorinated water affect my health?**

The Hawke’s Bay District Health Board says current studies indicate that using or drinking water with small amounts of chlorine does not cause harmful health effects. In a small number of people it can be an irritant for existing conditions such as asthma or eczma. It advises people concerned about their health to contact their GP or contact the Healthline on 0800 611 116.