



## Annual Chlorine Disinfection

Once a year, as required by North Carolina, the town uses chlorine instead of a combination of chlorine and ammonia to disinfect public drinking water. This monthlong disinfection typically occurs in March.

### Chlorine disinfection

State regulations require utilities that normally use chloramines — a compound of chlorine and ammonia — for disinfection to use chlorine for one month each year. The annual change helps ensure a high level of disinfection in water mains as chlorine is a more intense disinfectant than chloramines.

Other utilities in the region conduct the disinfection at the same time of year. This includes Hillsborough's interconnected neighboring utilities, Orange Water and Sewer Authority and the City of Durham.

During the annual disinfection process, the town releases water from fire hydrants and some valves in its water system. This "flushing" of the water mains helps ensure chlorine flows through the entire system.

### Effect on customers

During the annual disinfection, some customers may notice a chlorine taste or odor in Hillsborough's drinking water. Your water remains safe to drink.

To remove chlorine taste and odor from water, you can:

- Add a few lemon slices to a pitcher of water. The lemon's ascorbic acid will neutralize the chlorine.
- Let water sit in an open container in the refrigerator or on a counter for a day or so. A wide or shallow container will allow more contact between the air and water.
- Filter water with activated carbon. Water pitchers with such filters are sold locally.
- Boil water for 15 minutes to evaporate the chlorine.



If you use Hillsborough water for special purposes or for processes involving careful control of water characteristics, the town encourages you to seek advice from an appropriate technical source — such as a filter vendor or service company — about whether and how to make adjustments to your use of Hillsborough water during the month of chlorine disinfection.

### More information

For more information on the annual disinfection process or characteristics of the town's drinking water, contact the Water Treatment Plant at 919-732-3621.

For more information on water system flushing, see the Water System Flushing document on the town's website.