



chlorine

did you know

chlorine in our water supply

why is it used?

Water companies have a legal requirement to disinfect all public water supplies. It is essential that drinking water is always safe to drink and contains no germs capable of causing illness. One of the most effective methods of ensuring that it occurs is the addition of chemical disinfectant chlorine to water supplies.

how long has it been used?

The properties of chlorine and its compounds have been well known for along time. However, it was not until the beginning of the 20th century that chlorine started to become popular as a regular form of water purification in Great Britain.

are the amounts regulated?

Standards for water quality are set in the Water Supply (Water Quality) Regulations 2000. The guidelines which Hartlepool Water use limit the amount of chlorine to ensure that disinfection is achieved while minimising taste and odour.

how is it added?

Chlorine is continuously added at the water treatment works as chlorine gas or as a hypochlorite solution. Either way, the amount is carefully added, using modern automatic equipment, which is continuously monitored.

Our water treatment works are designed to be fail-safe; our 24-hour manned control rooms use an extensive radio telemetry system to check chlorination and other treatment processes.

why is chlorine more noticeable at certain times of the day?

With time, the concentration of chlorine in the mains water reduces. At times of high demand, such as first thing in the morning and late afternoon, more people are drawing water from our system. This will mean that water will reach you more quickly than at other times, and the faster the water reaches you, the more chlorine it will contain.

What if I don't like the taste or smell?

We constantly aim to provide all our customers with a safe and pleasant water supply. We cannot promise that the supply will never taste or smell of chlorine. Sometimes the amount may vary for a number of operational reasons, and we know that not everyone likes this taste. It is also recognised that different people have different sensitivities to chlorine.

If you fill a jug or bottle with Hartlepool Water tap water, cover it, and leave it in the fridge for an hour or so, this will help reduce the chlorine taste. We recommend that this water should not be kept too long – water may deteriorate if saved for more than 24 hours.

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1774 – Chlorine was discovered by Karl W Scheele, a Swedish chemist.

1850 – It was used in an attempt to disinfect the Broad Street water supply in London after an outbreak of cholera.

1897 – A 'bleach solution' was used as a temporary measure to sterilize potable water distribution mains at Maidstone, Kent after a typhoid outbreak.

1904 – Lincoln was the first town to use chlorine continuously in water treatment.

1914 – 1918 – During the war, the practice of chlorination expanded and it was generally adopted by the British Army for the treatment of all water supplies. During the same period, it was adopted by the London Metropolitan Water Board.

1939 – On the outbreak of the war the Government organized chlorination of all the nation's drinking water.

Further information can be found on our website:
www.hartlepoolwater.co.uk