

**CITY OF COOPER**  
**“FREE CHLORINE CONVERSION”/“BURN-OUT”**  
**FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS**

**What is a “free chlorine conversion”?**

A free chlorine conversion is a process by which a water system periodically switches its disinfection process from chloramines (a combination of chlorine and ammonia) to free chlorine in order to improve the long term quality of its drinking water.

**Why is the City of Cooper implementing a “free chlorine conversion”?**

This will improve the overall water quality in our distribution system.

**Is this the first time that the City of Cooper has implemented a free chlorine conversion?**

No.

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

Yes. This is a common industry standard for preventative maintenance in drinking water distribution systems. Many utilities throughout the state and country that use chloramines for their primary distribution disinfectant convert to free chlorine on an “as needed” basis. The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) endorse and support this procedure.

**How long will the “free chlorine conversion” last?**

The duration of the “free chlorine conversion” will be approximately 30 days.

**Does the “free chlorine conversion” pose any health risks? Will the water be safe to drink and use?**

The process is entirely safe and poses no health risks to customers. The water is safe to drink and customers can use the water as normal.

**Will I need to do anything differently during the conversion?**

No action is necessary during the conversion. Customers may drink and use their water as normal.

**Why all the flushing?**

The City of Cooper must directional flush to maintain clear water for our customers and to ensure the free chlorine conversion has made it to the far reaches of our distribution system. Flushing should significantly subside after the termination of the conversion.

**My water has a strong chlorine smell. What is going on?**

A chlorine smell is very normal during the conversion period, as the disinfectant is transitioning from chloramines to free chlorine. Chlorine concentrations maintained during the conversion will be well within TCEQ and EPA standards and will be entirely safe to consume and use as normal.

**I have a fish tank. How will it affect my fish?**

Processes in place to remove chloramines in water will remove free chlorine. No change or adjustment should be needed. However, the City of Cooper suggests that you contact your equipment supplier.