

OUR DRINKING WATER

THE SAFETY OF KAWERAU'S DRINKING WATER
IS A TOP PRIORITY FOR COUNCIL

GOVERNMENT INQUIRY INTO DRINKING WATER

Following the 2016 Havelock North water contamination which made more than 5000 people ill and caused numerous businesses to close for days, a government inquiry was held. The Stage Two Report from the Inquiry has recommended significant changes to New Zealand's drinking water standards and the treatment of drinking water nationally.

TWO OF THE KEY RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE REPORT



TREATMENT
of all drinking
water supplies



**RESIDUAL
DISINFECTION**
of drinking water
i.e. treatment
with chlorine

WHAT IT MEANS FOR KAWERAU

Council has made the decision that the only way to ensure the safety of our drinking water is to begin chlorination. From 1 July 2018, chlorine will be added to the water supply.

WHY DO WE NEED TO START USING CHLORINE?

Treating water with chlorine is backed up by science and more than a century of use around the world as a safe and effective water disinfectant.

- Chlorine is recognised world-wide as the most effective way to kill bacteria, such as campylobacter, in drinking water supplies.
- UV treatment does effectively clean water but only at the point of treatment.
- Chlorine stays in the water so that if bugs get in at some point in the pipe network, e.g. through a mains break or contamination from a back flow, the chlorine will kill them.



SOME USEFUL FACTS ON CHLORINE

DOES CHLORINE AFFECT THE TASTE AND SMELL OF DRINKING WATER?

Not usually. However, when chlorine reacts with organic material that can sometimes be present in the pipes it forms compounds called chloramines. That's what you might be able to smell and taste. As organic material is removed any taste and odour issues reduce.

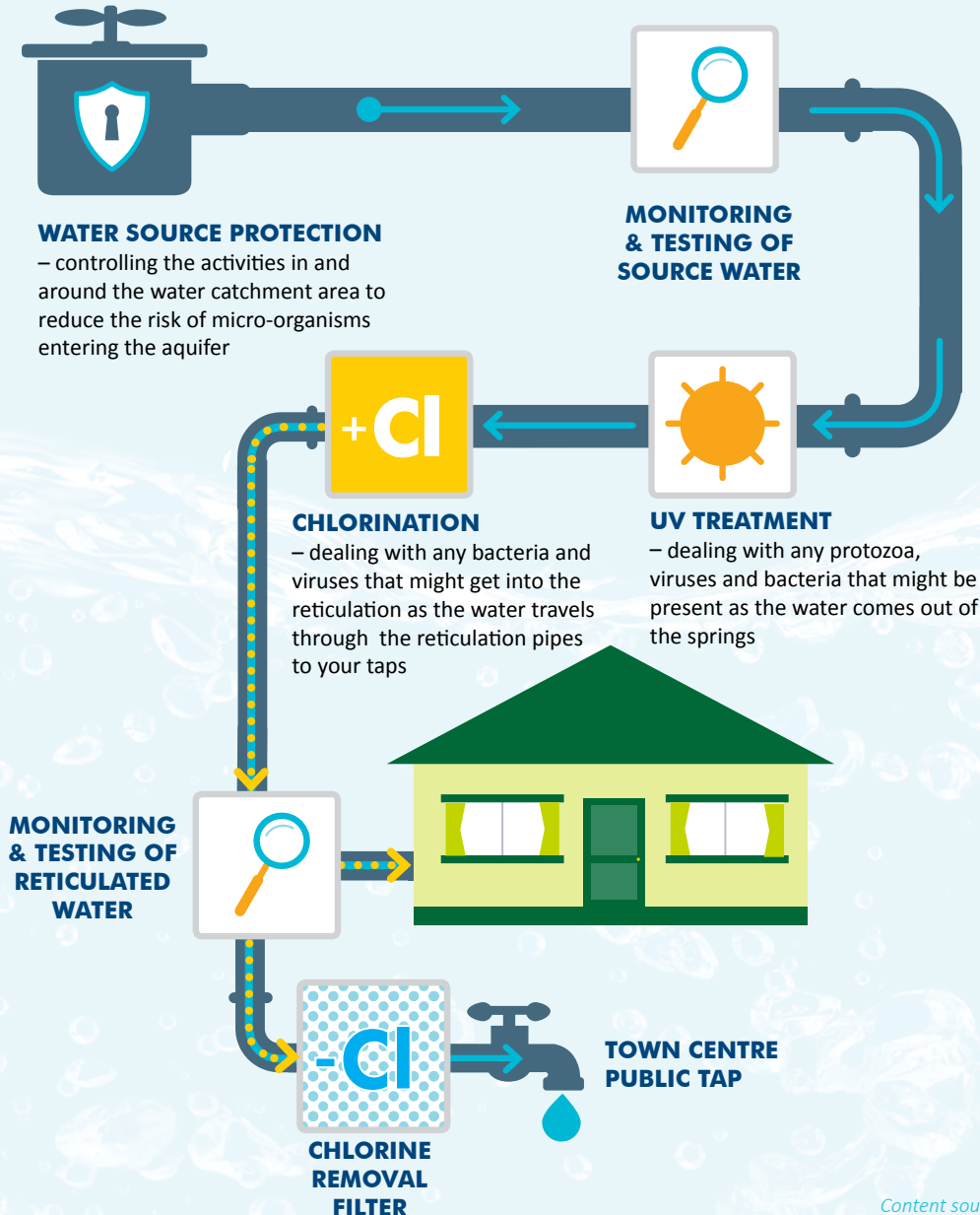
WHY IS CHLORINE NEEDED AS WELL AS UV TREATMENT?

Neither treatment alone is sufficient to deal with the range of organisms that might be present in the water. Critically, chlorine plays a role in protecting the water once it leaves the treatment plant and enters the water network, keeping the water safe all the way to the tap.

WHAT IS RESIDUAL DISINFECTION AND WHY IS IT IMPORTANT?

Chlorine remains in the water after it leaves the treatment plant, protecting the water as it travels through the pipes or when it is in the reservoir. This guards against risks from pipe breaks and backflow. Using chlorine means that drinking water is protected all the way to your taps.

HOW WILL THE SYSTEM WORK?



WHAT IF I DON'T LIKE THE TASTE/SMELL OF CHLORINE

HOW TO IMPROVE THE TASTE/SMELL OF CHLORINE

Put the water in a jug in the fridge overnight; this helps the chlorine to dissipate.

Another option is to use a carbon filter, readily available from suppliers/plumbers.



CHLORINE REMOVED TAP

Because we recognise some people dislike chlorine in our drinking water, Council will provide a tap in the Town Centre where chlorine-free water can be taken.

Content sourced and adapted from Hastings District Council