



Chlorine Taste and Smell

The Gananoque James W. King Drinking Water System meets all water quality standards. In accordance with the Ontario Safe Drinking Water Act, chlorine is added as a primary disinfectant during the water purification process to ensure our tap water is safe by eliminating microorganisms, such as bacteria and viruses, and other pathogens. The addition of chlorine is recognized and approved for use in drinking water systems in Ontario and has greatly reduced the risk of waterborne diseases and illnesses.

Before municipalities began routinely treating drinking water with chlorine, cholera, typhoid fever, dysentery and hepatitis A killed thousands of citizens annually. The process of chlorination and filtration has helped to virtually eliminate these diseases within the drinking water supply.

During the treatment process, Gananoque adds chlorine to the drinking water in the form of chlorine gas, this is continuously monitored by a chlorine analyzer and chlorine residuals are collected in the distribution system daily. In addition to controlling disease-causing organisms, chlorination offers a number of benefits including:

- Eliminates slime bacteria, molds and algae that commonly grow in water supply reservoirs, on the walls of water mains and in storage tanks;
- Removes chemical compounds that have unpleasant tastes and hinder disinfection; and
- Helps remove iron and manganese from raw water.

A small quantity of chlorine stays in the water after the treatment process which ensures the water remains disinfected from the treatment facility to the residents tap. Occasionally a slight smell or taste of chlorine coming from the tap water may occur, this often happens if the water has been stagnant for a longer period of time or when water temperatures fluctuate.

Some people may be sensitive to chlorine, if so, Customers can help remove the taste and smell of chlorine by following these suggestions:

- Fill an uncovered glass pitcher with water and place it in the refrigerator, most of the chlorine will dissipate;
- Add a lemon slice or a few drops of lemon juice to a glass of drinking water;
- Use a carbon filter.

If you require additional information on water quality, please contact the Superintendent Water Wastewater Utilities 613-382-2149 Ext 1118 email utilitysuperintendent@gananoque.ca