

# Chlorine Maintenance

April 6 - April 20, 2026



## What is Chlorine Maintenance?

As part of annual, routine water system maintenance, the Gulf Coast Water Authority (GCWA) will temporarily convert its water disinfection process from a combination of chlorine and ammonia (chloramine) to chlorine only.

This annual routine maintenance process allows GCWA and the communities it serves the opportunity to flush their water systems to prevent taste and odor problems that can occur during summer months.

Water users may notice some water discoloration, cloudiness, or chlorine smell during the maintenance period. These conditions are harmless and temporary, and the chlorine maintenance process has not been linked to any adverse health effects.

## Who is affected?

**All Galveston County communities except for League City, Friendswood, and Bolivar.**

As part of the chlorine maintenance process, municipalities and water districts will flush their water systems by opening fire hydrants. If you have specific questions, please contact your local municipality or water district.

# Frequently Asked Questions

<p>How does this process affect dialysis centers?</p>	<p>Dialysis centers will consistently treat the water to eliminate all chemical disinfectants, such as chlorine and chloramine, before using it for dialysis. Home dialysis users are advised to consult their machine manufacturers for instructions on properly treating their water before use.</p>
<p>Why does our drinking water need to be disinfected?</p>	<p>Water disinfection has been critical in improving drinking water safety in the United States, and it has been a standard practice in the U.S. for more than a century. According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, American drinking water supplies are among the safest in the world.</p>
<p>What is chloramine, and why does GCWA use it?</p>	<p>Chloramine is an effective disinfectant that works over a long period of time, particularly in areas with high temperatures like Texas.</p>
<p>What are drinking water requirements in Texas, and who regulates water quality?</p>	<p>Public water systems must disinfect water before it enters the distribution system which conveys it through pipes to customers. The Texas Commission on Environmental Quality regulates drinking water in the state.</p>
<p>Where do the affected Galveston County Communities get their water?</p>	<p>Water from the Brazos River is treated at the Gulf Coast Water Authority's Thomas Mackey Water Treatment Plant in Texas City. The plant has the capacity to treat more than 57 million gallons of water a day to serve approximately 200,000 consumers in Galveston County.</p>
<p>Does GCWA do additional water testing during this process?</p>	<p>No. In compliance with the federal Safe Drinking Water Act, the Thomas Mackey Water Treatment Plant team will continue to monitor the online analyzers, which conduct regular tests on the water every 4 hours.</p>
<p>What communities are impacted?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Bacliff MUD</li> <li>• Bayview MUD</li> <li>• Bayou Vista (Galveston County MUD 12)</li> <li>• Dickinson (Galveston County WCID 1)</li> <li>• Galveston Island</li> <li>• Hitchcock</li> <li>• Kemah (Galveston County WCID 12)</li> <li>• La Marque</li> <li>• San Leon MUD</li> <li>• Santa Fe (Galveston County WCID 8)</li> <li>• Texas City</li> <li>• Tiki Island (Galveston County FWSD 6)</li> </ul>
<p>I have fish and/or reptiles. Do I need to do anything differently?</p>	<p>Owners of fish and reptiles should follow standard water treatments using products that remove both chlorine and chloramine from the water.</p>

GCWA maintains an extensive system to deliver up to 200 million gallons of water a day from the Brazos River, our primary water source, to wholesale water customers across Brazoria, Fort Bend, and Galveston Counties.

Read more at: <https://www.gcwatx.gov/AnnualChlorineMaintenance>.