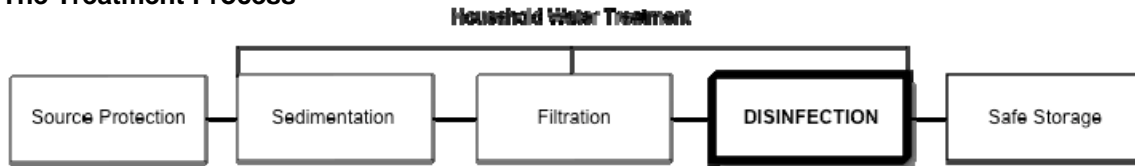


Household Water Treatment and Safe Storage Fact Sheet: Chlorine

The Treatment Process



Effectiveness

Very Effective For:	Somewhat Effective For:	Not Effective For:
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bacteria • Viruses 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Some Protozoa • Helminths 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Cryptosporidium parvum</i> • Toxoplasma oocysts • Turbidity • Chemicals • Taste, smell, colour

How Does it Work?

Chlorine is a popular chemical used to disinfect drinking water. Sodium hypochlorite and NaDCC, also known as sodium dichloroisocyanurate or sodium troclosene, are different types of chlorine that are available. When added to water, NaDCC releases hydrochloric acid which reacts with microorganisms and kills them. There are several different brands of chlorine products that have been manufactured specifically for household water treatment.

Effectiveness

- **Quality:** Very effective in removing bacteria; not effective for certain types of protozoa; protects water against recontamination
- **Quantity:** Depends on the size of container being used
- **Local water:** Should only be used with clear water; may need to sediment and filter water before using chlorine



Appropriateness

- **Local availability:** Available for purchase in most places
- **Time:** Need to wait at least 30 minutes after adding chlorine
- **Operation and maintenance:** Follow manufacturer's instructions for specific products; store chlorine away from children
- **Lifespan:** Up to 5 years for tablets; liquid chlorine products should be used within 3 months of being manufactured

Acceptability

- **Taste, smell and colour:** Some people do not like the taste or smell of chlorinated water; does not change the colour
- **Ease of use:** Follow manufacturer's instructions for specific products

Cost

- **Initial purchase cost:** None
- **Operating cost:** On-going cost to buy chlorine products; US\$3-11/year depending on product