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## Safe Water System (SWS) Publications - Chlorine Information

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Many people interested in the SWS project have questions about chlorine (in the liquid form most often used in the SWS projects the chemical name of the solution is 'sodium hypochlorite'). These fact sheets are intended to answer the most commonly asked chlorination questions.

In this table you can find information about the effectiveness of chlorine in inactivating bacteria, viruses, and protozoa.

One common concern with chlorination is about potential cancer-causing effects of drinking chlorinated water long-term. Information about disinfection by-products and the Safe Water System can be found in this [1-page summary](#) (PDF-11KB), or this longer, more detailed [6-page summary](#) (PDF - 29KB)

The chemistry of chlorination, and common ways to test for residual chlorine in drinking water in developing countries are described in [this document](#). (PDF-231KB)

Many programs that work in communities with turbid water ask about local, cost-effective, and sustainable ways to pre-filter water before adding the chlorine solution. Pre-filtration increases user acceptability because of visual improvement in the water. There are numerous [local mechanisms to pre-treat water prior to chlorination](#). (PDF - 257KB)

We look forward to providing more information through this web site, and if you have any requests for fact sheets please feel free to contact us at [safewater@cdc.gov](mailto:safewater@cdc.gov).

Some documents are available here in Adobe Acrobat Reader format (PDF). To view or print them, you must have the free Adobe Acrobat Reader installed on your computer. Please click [HERE](#) for more information and to download Acrobat Reader.

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