

## Bromination

Bromine, chlorine, fluorine and iodine belong to a family of elements known as halogens. Halogens share similar properties like disinfection and bleaching. They are popular chemical disinfectants for the control of water borne pathogens.

Outdoor surface water in rivers and lakes almost always contains microorganisms regardless of how clean it appears. Hence, campers and outdoor enthusiasts should boil water prior to consumption. If boiling is not an option, Health Canada recommends the use of chlorine and iodine disinfectants.

Bromine is a halogen element that is found in nature as a dissolved salt in seawater. Bromine is a powerful bleach and disinfectant that prevents the formation of algae, germs and odours.

Bromine is not commonly used for drinking water disinfection and its use is usually restricted to offshore and marine drinking water applications.

In addition to drinking water disinfection, bromine is used as an alternative to chlorine for the disinfection of swimming pools and cooling water towers.



Colour and appearance of bromine



Bromine is used for marine drinking water disinfection since it is safer to store and use on board than chlorine