

# 40 Chlorination

Some water sources contain disease-causing organisms which need to be removed to make the water safe to drink. If carefully monitored, disinfection is an effective method of removing such organisms. Chlorination is a widely used disinfectant, and the method is readily available. This text describes a method of calculating the required amount of chlorine to disinfect small communities.

## Why Disinfect?

Water treatment processes such as filtration, sedimentation and aeration will reduce the number of disease-causing organisms in water, but will not completely remove such organisms. Chlorination, if applied and dosed properly, will provide an effective method of removing such organisms.

## Methods of Disinfection

Both chlorine and ozone are effective disinfectants, but chlorine is more suitable for large-scale use. Chlorination is a method of disinfection commonly used in water treatment. For small communities, chlorine is the most commonly used disinfectant. Chlorination is a widely used disinfectant, and the method is readily available. This text describes a method of calculating the required amount of chlorine to disinfect small communities. Chlorination is a widely used disinfectant, and the method is readily available. This text describes a method of calculating the required amount of chlorine to disinfect small communities.

Chlorination may be used for disinfection of water and their suitable compounds and their

chlorine added



chlorine used

0.5m

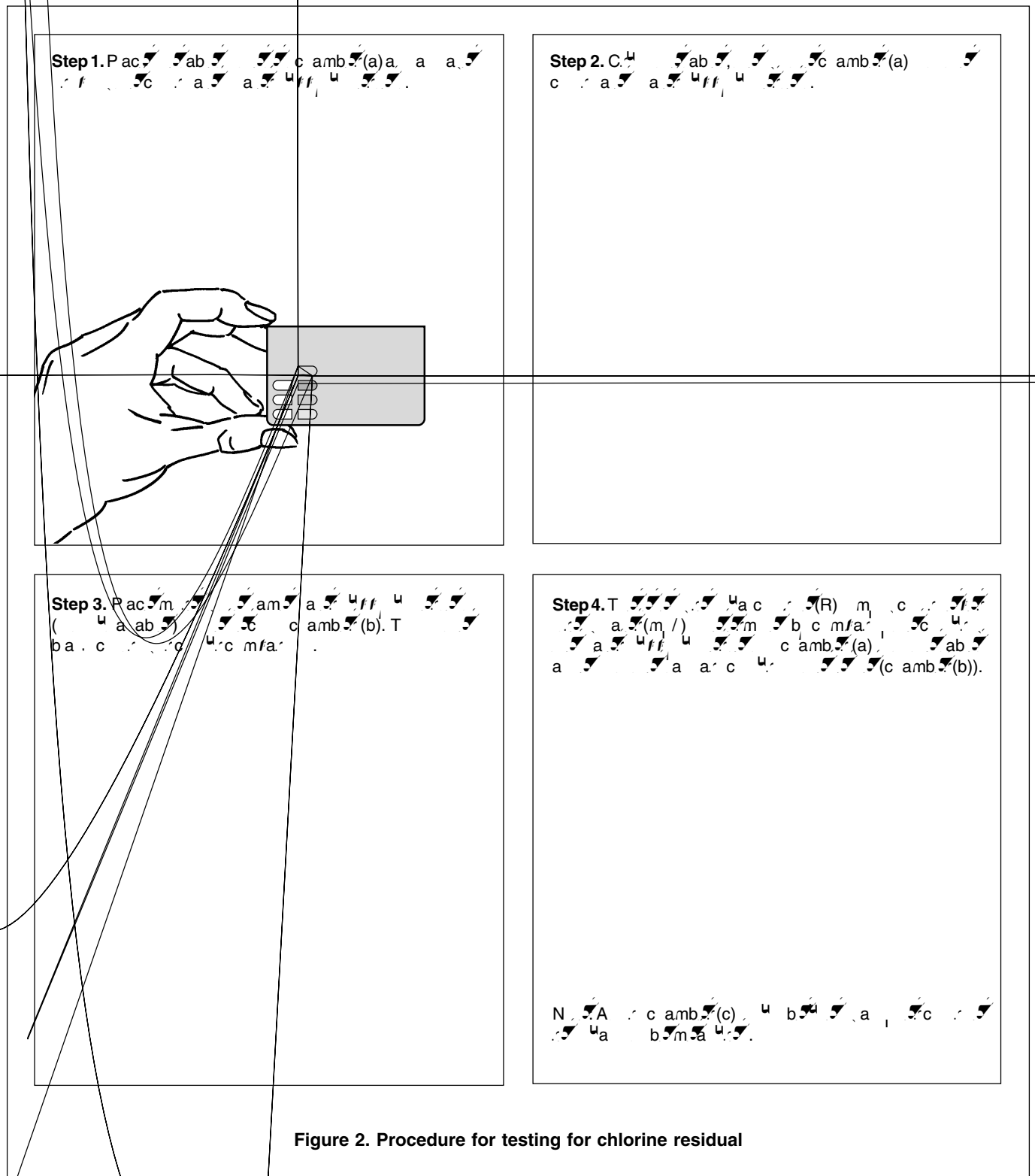
## Testing for chlorine residual

The most common test is the dpd (diethyl paraphenylene diamine) indicator test, using a comparator. This test is the quickest and simplest method for testing chlorine residual.

With this test, a tablet reagent is added to a sample of water, colouring it red. The strength of colour is measured

against standard colours on a chart to determine the chlorine concentration. The stronger the colour, the higher the concentration of chlorine in the water

Several kits for analysing the chlorine residual in water, such as the one illustrated in Figure 2, are available commercially. The kits are small and portable.



## Chlorinating water supplies

Chlorine is available in many forms — as chlorine gas and in compounds such as bleaching powder, high test hypochlorite (HTH), tablets, granules, and liquid bleach.

Each product contains a different amount of usable chlorine, so different quantities of each will be required for the same purpose. In addition, the chlorine content of

each product will reduce over time as the source is exposed to the atmosphere. All products should be carefully stored to minimize deterioration.

The best practical method of chlorinating a supply of water is to use two storage tanks of suitable size alternately, one filled from the source, while the other is used for supply.

### A chlorination checklist

- Chlorine needs *at least* half an hour contact time with water to disinfect it. The best time to apply it is after any other treatment process, and before storage

## **Modified Horrocks' method of chlorination**

With most chlorination methods the operator should make up a solution of known concentration. For the reasons