

AGMIN NEWSLETTER No. 212

CUPRICIDE®

Cupricide® in Drinking Water

Agmin Cupricide® is registered by the NRA for use in potable water reservoirs, when used according to the Directions on the label. Please refer to the product label contained in our Cupricide® product information.

The algicidal activity of Cupricide® is provided by a total copper concentration range of 0.2 – 1.0mg/L (0.2 to 1.0ppm). At this level of copper, there would be no harmful effects on the health of persons who drink this water. The US Environmental Protection Agency has determined that copper levels in drinking water should not exceed 1.3mg/L (1.3ppm). No adverse health effects would be expected if this level were not exceeded.

When the maximum concentration range of Copper is applied, and the targeted 1 milligram per litre (Copper 1ppm) is achieved, immediately a rapid absorption of Cupricide® into the algal cells proceeds and dependent upon the level of algal mass, within four hours, more than half of the applied Copper sinks into the benthos. In most cases, after 24 hours the Cupricide® treated water contains only the usual background concentration level of the untreated water, which varies between 0.05 to 0.9 microgram per litre (0.05 to 0.9 ppb i.e. parts per billion). The absorbed Copper in the algae in the benthos will mix with the clay materials on the bottom of the dams and will become unavailable for re-dissolution into the water itself.

Copper occurs naturally in all plants and animals; it is an essential element for all living organisms, including humans. However, a very large single dose of Copper, or long term intakes of high concentration of Copper, contained within plants or water may be harmful to your health; some immediate effects include vomiting, diarrhoea, stomach cramps or nausea.

In situations where excess copper in drinking water is suspected (action level is 1.3ppm copper), it is advisable to have the water supply tested for the concentration of total copper – please consult your local water supply authority or contact Agmin Chelates on (03) 5248 3828.



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