

# Prozac may form tap water toxins

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Recycling wastewater is used in areas where local water supplies are unreliable. To restore sewage to potable water quality, it first goes through regular wastewater treatment. Then, it is passed through several purification stages including ozone treatment followed by chlorination. These steps kill microorganisms and remove chemical impurities. But sometimes, these processes create a toxin called nitrochloroform in the resulting drinking water.

The toxin may form from antidepressants such as Prozac and stimulants like methamphetamine which are found in wastewater. When these drugs come into contact with ozone, they react to form nitromethane, which during chlorination converts into the toxic nitrochloroform.



Low aerial view  
Fitchburg East  
Wastewater  
Treatment Plant



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- 1. What is potable water?**
- 2. Explain why ozone and chlorine are used in treating water.**
- 3. Describe the steps used in regular sewage treatment.**