

Important Points to Remember

Ice / Icemakers

- Throw out all ice made with tap water.
- Make new ice with boiled or bottled water.

Bathing and showering

- Be careful not to swallow any water when bathing or showering.
- Use caution when bathing babies and young children. Consider giving them a sponge bath to reduce the chance of them swallowing water.

Brushing teeth

- Brush teeth with boiled or bottled water. Do **not** use untreated tap water.

Washing dishes

- Household dishwashers generally are safe to use if the water reaches a final rinse temperature of at least 150 degrees or if the dishwasher has a sanitizing cycle.

To wash dishes by hand:

- Wash and rinse the dishes as you normally would using hot water.
- In a separate basin, add 1 teaspoon of unscented household liquid bleach for each gallon of warm water.
- Soak the rinsed dishes in the water for at least one minute.
- Let the dishes air dry completely.

Pets

- Pets can get some of the same diseases as people. It is a good idea to give them boiled water that has been cooled.

What to do AFTER the Advisory is Lifted

Flush your faucets / water dispensers and ice makers

- Begin with the faucet that is highest up in your home or building and then open the other faucets one at a time moving from the highest floor to the lowest. Turn on the cold water tap at all faucets and run the water until you feel a change in temperature (i.e. the water gets noticeably colder). This may take several minutes.
- Change any filter cartridges.
- Throw out ice made with tap water.
- Flush the water dispenser for 3 to 5 minutes.
- Run the ice maker for 1 hour. Throw out all the ice.
- Wash and sanitize bin areas.
- Read the owner's manual for directions to clean appliances such as water softeners and filter units.

For more information on how you can protect water quality, please contact us!

Water Utility Name
Phone
email

Reference: Centers for Disease Control. "Drinking Water Advisory Communication Toolbox." March 2013

Boil Water Advisories

What you need to know



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Why is a Boil Order Issued?

Water systems issue drinking water advisories when water quality is or may be compromised.

Some common reasons a boil order is issued are for potential or demonstrated microbial contamination due to:

- Low/loss of pressure
- Tier 1 microbial violation (e.g., high turbidity, positive E. coli)
- Natural disasters (e.g., flooding, hurricanes)
- Vandalism



Boiling Water

- Fill a pot with water.
- Heat the water until bubbles come from the bottom of the pot to the top.
- Once the water reaches a rolling boil, let it boil for 1 minute.
- Turn off the heat source and let the water cool.
- Pour the water into a clean container with a cover for storage.

Disinfecting Water

If you are unable to boil your water, disinfect it instead.

If tap water is clear:

- Use unscented bleach (bleach that does not have an added scent).
- Add 1/8 teaspoon (8 drops or about 0.75 milliliters) of unscented household liquid bleach to 1 gallon (16 cups) of water.
- Mix well and wait 30 minutes or more before drinking.
- Store disinfected water in clean container with a cover.

If tap water is cloudy:

- Filter water using clean cloth.
- Use unscented bleach
- Add 1/4 teaspoon (16 drops or 1.5 milliliters) of unscented household liquid bleach to 1 gallon (16 cups) of water.
- Mix well and wait 30 minutes or more before drinking.
- Store disinfected water in clean container with a cover.



Important Points to Remember

Water filters

- Boil tap water even if it is filtered.
- Most kitchen and other household water filters typically do **not** remove bacteria or viruses.

Preparing and cooking food

- Wash all fruits and vegetables with boiled water that has cooled or bottled water.
- Bring water to a rolling boil for 1 minute before adding food to cook.
- Use boiled water when preparing drinks, such as coffee, tea, and lemonade
- Wash food preparation surfaces with boiled water.

Feeding babies using formula

- Use ready-to-use formula, if possible.
- Prepare powdered or concentrated formula with bottled water. Use boiled water if you do not have bottled water. Disinfect water for baby formula if you cannot boil your water (see above for directions on how to use bleach to disinfect water).
- Wash & sterilize bottles & nipples before use.
- If you cannot sterilize bottles, try to use single-serve, ready-to-feed bottles.

Laundry

- It is safe to do laundry as usual.