



Boil Water Notices

Boil water notices are issued when an event has occurred allowing the possibility for the water distribution system to be contaminated. Bacteria in drinking water may cause illness.¹² Typical symptoms may include diarrhea, cramps, nausea, and yellowed eyes and skin (jaundice) with headaches or fatigue.

Note that these symptoms may be caused by factors other than unsafe water. If you become ill with the above symptoms during a boil water notice, you should talk to your doctor or call your local health department.

While under notice, you can use current water for the following:

- Bathing (except infants), showering, washing hands, and washing dishes. Rinse dishes as instructed above (“Sanitize”).
- Washing dishes in automatic dishwashers that use a heating element to dry dishes.
- Washing cars and watering lawns.

Use only safe water for the following:

- Drinking, cooking, making baby formula, coffee, juices, other beverages or ice.
- Washing ready-to-eat fruits and vegetables.
- Bathing infants, washing open wounds, brushing teeth, or watering pets.
- Rinsing dishes; see sanitizing instructions below.
- DO NOT use ice cubes from your freezer or any beverages made with unsafe water.

Examples of safe water include:

- Commercially bottled water.
- Packaged ice from an approved source.
- Water that has been at a rolling boil for one minute.
- Another public water supply system that is safe. Any transport container, whether it is a bucket or gallon jug, must be washed and sanitized before filling with safe, clean water.
- Sanitize by immersing for one minute in a solution of one teaspoon of chlorine bleach (5.25%, unscented) per gallon of clean water.
- Clear water to which 1/8 teaspoon (or cloudy water to which ¼ teaspoon) of bleach has been added to a gallon of water and the water has been allowed to sit for 30 minutes.



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