

# HOW TO KEEP SAFE IF YOU RECEIVE A BOIL WATER NOTICE



Protect your health during a boil water notice.

## What is a boil water notice?

A **boil water notice** is sent by a public water system to its customers when certain bacteria are found in the drinking water or if the water pressure is too low. In both of these situations, drinking water may be unsafe.

A **boil water notice** lets people know that they need to take steps to protect themselves until the problem is fixed.

## What should you do?



**Don't use your tap water for drinking or food preparation!**



**Use **safe**, clean water until your public water system tells you that your tap water is safe to use.**

Examples of **safe** water: commercially bottled water, water you boiled for one minute, water from a source that does not have a bacteria problem, and packaged ice from an approved source



**Talk to your doctor if you or a family member has symptoms that you think may be from your drinking water.**

**FLIP OVER** for more information about these recommendations.





## Don't use your tap water for drinking or food preparation!

- **Throw out any drinks or ice** that were made with tap water before the notice came out.
- **It is okay to use tap water for:**
  - Bathing or showering (except for infants).
  - Making **sanitizing solution** to sanitize dishes and water storage containers (see instructions at right).
  - Washing dishes in automatic dishwashers that have a sanitizing or heated dry cycle.
  - Doing laundry.
  - Watering lawns and plants.



## Use **safe** water until your public water system tells you that your tap water is safe to use.

- **Examples of **safe** water:**
  - Commercially bottled water
  - Packaged ice from an approved source
  - Water you boiled for one minute
  - Water from a different water system that does not have a bacteria problem
- **Sanitize containers.** Make sure that containers are sanitized before using them to carry and store safe water.
- **What should you use **safe** water for?**
  - Drinking, cooking, and making baby formula, coffee, juices, other beverages, or ice
  - Washing uncooked fruits and vegetables
  - Bathing infants
  - Brushing teeth
  - Washing open cuts or wounds
  - Rinsing dishes
  - Giving water to pets
  - Washing hands



## Talk to your doctor if you or a family member has symptoms that you think may be from your drinking water.

- Common symptoms include diarrhea, stomach cramps, nausea, vomiting, and fever.
- Elderly people, infants, small children, and people with weak immune systems are more likely to get sick from germs in drinking water. These individuals should talk to their doctor for more advice.

## How to make and use sanitizing solution

Sanitizing solution is used to make sure that dishes and water storage containers don't have harmful germs that can make you sick.

### To make sanitizing solution:

Mix one teaspoon of 5.25% unscented bleach with one gallon of clear, non-cloudy tap water.

### How to sanitize dishes or water storage containers:

Soak dishes or containers in sanitizing solution for one minute, then let the items air dry.

## For more information about safe drinking water:

- Contact your local public health agency: <https://www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/lh-depts/counties.htm>
- Contact your Department of Natural Resources Regional Office or go to <http://dnr.wi.gov/topic/drinkingwater/>
- Visit the Department of Health Services website: <https://www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/water/index.htm>

