

Boil Water Advisories



Why are boil water advisories issued?

- inadequate disinfection of the community supply
- unsatisfactory bacteriological water quality
- reports of illness associated with drinking water
- repairs to the water system
- unusual occurrences, such as flooding

How long should the water be boiled?

All drinking water must be brought to a rigorous rolling boil for one (1) minute. Boiling for one minute will kill any disease-causing organisms in your water.

Should water used for additional purposes be boiled?



Boil water used for any activity where you might ingest the water, such as:

- drinking
- brushing teeth
- cooking
- washing fruits and vegetables
- making ice
- making coffee/tea
- making infant formula and cereal
- making juices and other drinks from concentrate or powders

Existing beverages and ice cubes made from water of questionable quality should be discarded. Ice cube trays and beverage containers should be sanitized before using again.



CAUTION !

Exercise caution when handling boiled water. To avoid scalding place the pot on the inside burner out of the reach of children. As well, do not put more water in the pot than you can comfortably lift.

What should I do if I don't wish to boil tap water?

Commercially pre-packaged bottled water can be used in place of boiled water. This may be expensive.

WARNING !

Water that looks safe may contain harmful disease causing micro-organisms. Don't drink water from roadside springs, ponds, brooks, etc. without boiling the water or treating the water in another effective way.

Can I shower if there is a boil water advisory in place?

Yes, you can shower but do not drink shower water. The ingestion of water may result in illness, if the water is contaminated. Care should be taken while bathing young children to ensure they do not accidentally consume the water.



Can the water be used for hand washing?

Yes, tap water can be used for hand washing. Use hot water and soap.

Can the water be used for washing dishes and clothes?

Yes, dishes and clothes can be washed in tap water.

Important!

If you use a water treatment unit, please follow the manufacturer's instructions.

What should I do in the event of a waterborne illness outbreak?

In the event of a waterborne illness outbreak, follow additional precautions that may be recommended by the Medical Officer of Health. Anyone with health concerns or experiencing symptoms such as diarrhea, nausea, cramps, or vomiting should seek the advice of their doctor.

Where can I find out more?

If you have any questions about drinking water safety, please do not hesitate to contact the Government Service Centre or Regional Health Authority nearest you.



Department of Health and Community Services
Department of Environment and Conservation
Department of Government Services
Regional Health Authorities

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