



BOIL WATER ADVISORY NOTICE

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Wikipedia's Definition: A boil-water advisory or boil-water order is a public health advisory or directive given by government or health authorities to consumers when a community's drinking water is, or could be, contaminated by pathogens.

Under a boil-water advisory (BWA), the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention recommends that water be brought to a rolling boil for one minute before it is consumed in order to kill protozoa, bacteria and viruses. At altitudes above 2,000 meters (6,561 feet), boiling should be extended to 3 minutes, as the lower boiling point at high altitudes requires more time to kill such organisms.

BWAs are typically issued when monitoring of water being served to consumers detects *Escherichia coli* or other microbiological indicators of sewage contamination. Another reason for a BWA is a failure of distribution system integrity evidenced by a loss of system pressure. While loss of pressure does not necessarily mean the water has been contaminated, it does mean that pathogens may be able to enter the piped-water system and thus be carried to consumers. In the United States, this has been defined as a drop below 20 pounds per square inch (140 kPa).

The following info taken from the New Hampshire's Department of Environmental Services:

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS ABOUT BOIL ORDERS:

Water Usage:

Why must I boil my water? A boil water order has been issued to your water system because either recent testing has shown the presence of organisms that could cause illness, e.g., fecal or E.coli bacteria, or technical / physical problems in the water system have significantly increased the possibility of bacterial contamination.

How can I make my water safe? Boiling the water is the best way to ensure that it is free of illness-causing organisms. Bring the water to a rolling boil for a minimum of two minutes. When it cools, refrigerate the water in clean containers. (A pinch of salt per quart may improve the rather "flat" taste of boiled water.) If

you don't want to boil your water, you can disinfect it by adding 1/8 teaspoon of bleach (common household bleach containing 5.25 percent sodium hypochlorite) per gallon of water. Do not use bleach containing perfume, dyes, or other additives.

Can I use bottled water? Buying bottled water may be a feasible alternative to boiling water. Bottled water operations are routinely inspected, and samples are periodically analyzed to ensure they meet health standards.

During a boil water order, can I use my tap water for ...?

Drinking – No

Ice cubes – No

Brushing teeth – No

Baby's formula – No

Washing fruit / vegetables – No

Preparing food – No

Coffee, tea, lemonade, etc. – No

Laundry – Yes

Watering grass or garden – Yes

Can I wash my hands using tap water? It is recommended that you wash your hands using soap and either bottled water or pre-boiled water. An alcohol-based hand sanitizer may also be used.

Can my family take showers or baths using tap water? Adults may continue to shower as long as no water is swallowed. Sponge baths are recommended for children using a clean supply of water if possible. After you bathe or shower, wash your hands in chlorinated or bottled/boiled water. People with open wounds or who are immuno-compromised should avoid showering in contaminated tap water.

Can I wash dishes using tap water? You may use a dishwasher if it has a sanitizing cycle. If it does not have a sanitizing cycle, or you are not sure if it does, you may wash dishes and utensils by following these steps: Wash dishes as you normally would. As a final step, immerse the dishes for at least one minute in lukewarm water to which a teaspoon of bleach per gallon of water has been added. Allow the dishes to completely air dry.

Can I use my coffee maker, ice machine, water or soda dispenser? None of these devices should be used if they >>>

are directly connected to your water supply. Also, filters are unacceptable for removing bacteria. Once you have been notified that the boil order has been lifted, these devices should be cleaned and sanitized according to the operating manual for the device.

Can I give my pets tap water? Although pets are not normally affected by the same diseases as humans, caution suggests giving pets pre-boiled or bottled water.

What are the symptoms of water-borne illness? Disease symptoms may include diarrhea, cramps, nausea, possible jaundice and associated headaches and fatigue. Symptoms may appear as early as a few hours to several days after infection and may last more than two weeks. These symptoms, however, are not just associated with disease-causing organisms in drinking water; they may also be caused by a number of other factors. If you are ill with these symptoms, contact your health care provider.

How long will the boil order remain in effect? Each order situation is different making it impossible to predict how long the boil order will remain in effect. It will not be lifted until testing shows that the water meets public health standards. Your utility will notify you when the order is lifted.

Hopefully you will never need to know any of this information, but it may prove to come in handy if you ever do. 💧💧