

## Boil Water Advisory

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During a boil advisory, bottled water is the best option, if you do not have bottled water available, the next best option is to boil water. If you cannot boil water, you can disinfect it.

#### To Boil Water:

- Fill pot with water
- Heat the water until bubbles come quickly from the bottom of the pot to the top
- Keep heating the water for **one more minute**
- Turn off the heat source, and let the water cool
- Pour drinking water into a clean container with a cover for storage

#### Disinfecting Water:

You will need a clean container to store water that you disinfect. To clean and sanitize your storage container:

- Wash storage container with dishwashing soap and water, and rinse completely
- Sanitize the container with a solution made by mixing 1 teaspoon of unscented household bleach in one quart (32 ounces, 4 cups, or 1 liter) of water
- Cover the container and shake it well so that the bleach solution touches all of the surfaces inside of the container
- Wait at least 30 seconds, then pour the sanitizing solution out of the container
- Let the container air-dry before use OR rinse with clean, safe water that is already available

DO NOT USE containers that have been used to hold liquid or solid toxic chemicals (like bleach, or pesticides)

To disinfect tap water that is clear:

- Use unscented bleach (the label should say that it contains at least 8.25% of sodium hypochlorite)
- Add 6 drops (using a medicine dropper) or 0.5 milliliters of bleach to 1 gallon (16 cups) of water
- Mix well, and wait at least 30 minutes before drinking
- Store water in a clean, sanitized container with a cover

To disinfect tap water that is cloudy:

- Filter water using a clean cloth
- Use unscented bleach (the label should say that it contains at least 8.25% of sodium hypochlorite)
- Add 12 drops, 1 milliliter, or 1/8 teaspoon of bleach to 1 gallon (16 cups) of water
- Mix well, and wait at least 30 minutes before drinking
- Store water in a clean, sanitized container with a cover

## **Water Filters**

You should boil your tap water even if it is filtered. Most kitchen and other household filters do not remove bacteria or viruses that may be present. All filters should be replaced after the advisory has been lifted.

## **Preparing and Cooking Food**

Use bottled water or boiled water that has cooled to:

- Wash all fruits and vegetables
- Cook food
- Prepare drinks, such as coffee, or tea
- Wash food preparation surfaces

## **Feeding Babies and Using Formula**

Breastfeeding is best. If breastfeeding is not an option:

- Use ready-to-use baby formula, if possible
- Prepare powdered or concentrated baby formula with bottled water. Use boiled water if you do not have bottled water
- Wash and sterilize bottles and nipples before using bottled or boiled water that has cooled; if you cannot sterilize bottles, try to use single-serve, ready-to-feed bottles

## **Ice**

- Do not use ice from ice trays, ice dispensers, or ice makers; throw out all ice made with tap water
- Make new ice with bottled or boiled water

## **Handwashing**

In many cases, you can still use tap water and soap to wash your hands.

## **Bathing and Showering**

Tap water is generally ok for bathing; be careful not to swallow any water; use caution when bathing babies and young children. Consider a sponge bath to reduce the chance of them swallowing water.

## **Brushing Teeth**

Brush teeth with bottled or boiled water that has cooled.

## **Washing dishes**

Use disposable plates, cups, and utensils if possible. If not:

Household dishwashers are generally safe to use if the water reaches 150° F or if the machine has a sanitize feature.



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To wash dishes by hand:

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

### **Laundry**

It is safe to do laundry as usual

### **Pets**

Pets can be sick from the same germs as people; give bottled water or boiled water that has been cooled for drinking

For more information, visit:

<https://www.cdc.gov/healthywater/drinking/index.html>