

# During a boil water advisory

## Residential – Checklist

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When a resident is notified of a boil water advisory, take the following actions:

### 1. DRINKING WATER

- Use bottled water. Bottled water is the best option for drinking if it is available.
- Boil water if bottled water is not available.
  - Bring water to a rolling boil for one minute.
  - Let cool for 15 minutes before drinking.
  - Store the cooled water in a clean, sanitized container with a cover.
- Use bottled or boiled water for pets.

### 2. FOOD PREPARATION AND COOKING

- Discard all ice or drinks made with tap water.
- Discard ready-to-eat food that was prepared with water prior to the advisory (e.g., coffee, juice, formula, smoothies, gelatins, and popsicles).
- Use bottled or boiled water for:
  - Food and beverage preparation.
  - Washing fruits and vegetables.
  - Mixing beverages.
  - Making ice.
  - Preparing baby formula.
- Use disposable plates, cups, and utensils, if possible.

### 3. CLEANING AND SANITIZING

- Use bottled water or boiled water with bleach (or an equivalent) to clean surfaces.

#### Dishwashing

If you do not have disposable plates, cups, and utensils, follow these instructions to wash dishes:

##### By hand:

- Wash and rinse the dishes as normally done using hot water.
- In a separate basin, add 1 teaspoon of unscented household liquid bleach for each gallon of warm water. The bleach label should say that it contains 8.25% of sodium hypochlorite.
- Soak the rinsed dishes in the sanitizer solution for at least 1 minute.
- Let the dishes air dry completely before using again.

##### By dishwasher:

- Run dishwasher through the hottest or 'sanitize' cycle.
- Follow with a sanitizing step, in a clean basin, add 1 teaspoon of unscented household liquid bleach for each gallon of warm water. The bleach label should say that it contains 8.25% of sodium hypochlorite.
- Remove the dishes from the dishwasher and soak in the sanitizer solution for at least 1 minute.
- Let the dishes air dry completely before using again.

(more)

### Toy Washing & Laundry

- Use bottled water or boiled water to clean washable toys and surfaces.
- Use a hot water rinse cycle and heat-dried on the highest heat setting for 30 minutes to wash:
  - Cloth toys
  - Dress up clothes
  - Laundry
- Discontinue all on-site water play (water activity tables) or swimming activities.

### 4. HANDWASHING & HYGIENE

- Faucet water can be used for showering, baths, and shaving, but do not swallow water or allow it to get in eyes, nose, or mouth.
- Supervise children and disabled individuals during their bath to make sure water is not swallowed. Minimize bathing time or use bottled water.
  - Note: Though the risk of illness is minimal, individuals who have recent surgical wounds, have compromised immune systems, or have a chronic illness may want to consider using bottled or boiled water for cleansing until the advisory is lifted. Anyone with questions or concerns should contact their healthcare provider.
- Vigorous handwashing for at least 20 seconds with soap and tap water is safe during a boil water advisory.
- Observe children handwashing to ensure soap use and vigorous handwashing occur.
- If soap is not available, use an alcohol-based hand rub to clean hands.
- If washing your hands to prepare food, use boiled (then cooled) water, disinfected water, or bottled water with handwashing soap. Follow up with an alcohol based hand sanitizer.
- Use bottled or boiled water for brushing teeth.
- Use bottled or boiled water for washing cuts, scrapes, or wounds.
- Wear disposable gloves to change diapers.
  - Wash hands with soap and water immediately afterwards.
  - When you are done washing and drying your hands, use an alcohol based hand-sanitizer and let hands air dry.

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