

Drinking Water Notifications

1. Water System Operators use 3 types of water notifications to inform consumers of negative impacts to the quality of the water being supplied...

- Boil Water Notice
- Water Quality Advisory
 - Do Not Use

Boil Water Notice

A boil water notice is issued when a health risk is determined to be in the drinking water source. Bring water to a rolling boil for at least 1 minute or use an alternate, safe source of water. Use Boiled Water for:

- Drinking
- Brushing teeth
- Washing fruits & vegetables to be eaten raw
- Preparing food
- Mixing baby formula
- Making ice

Water Quality Advisory

A water quality advisory indicates a level of risk associated with consuming the drinking water, but the conditions do not warrant a boil water notice or do-not-use water notice.

Water quality advisory may be issued when certain chemicals, such as arsenic, are detected in the drinking water at a level that could pose a long term health risk. The advisory will describe the nature of the risk and what actions a consumer can take to reduce the risk.

Do Not Use Notice

A Do Not Use Notice is issued when there is an imminent risk that the drinking water will cause illness even if the water is boiled. We recommend not using the water for any purposes except flushing toilets.

When is the Notice Lifted?

When the water is considered safe and no longer poses a threat to public health the notice is lifted.

If you consume the water prior to or during a notice and begin to have a fever, diarrhea or vomiting you should seek medical attention. Advise your health care practitioner that you have consumed tap water during a water notification period.

Frequently Asked Questions

1/ I have a water treatment device; do I still need to boil my drinking water?

If the device is designed to improve the taste and odour or chemical quality of the water, such as activated carbon filters, it is still necessary to boil the water. Devices designed to disinfect the water, such as a UV light unit, may be used as an alternative to boiling. If the water is cloudy, filtration may be required before disinfection. Check with the manufacturer if you are not certain.

Can I use my activated charcoal filter system (i.e. Brita or other brand names) to treat my water during a Boil Water Notice?

No, these filters are not designed to remove contamination from an unsafe water supply. If you have run the water through your filter during the Boil Water Notice it could be contaminated. It is recommended that you discard the filter and replace it with a new one once the Boil Water Notice is over.

2/ Can my pets drink the water?

Pets should be provided boiled water, or water from an alternate source until the boil water notice/advisory is lifted.

3/ Can I use my coffee maker?

Most residential coffee makers are not capable of maintaining high temperatures for a long enough period of time to make the water safe to drink. Coffee and tea can be made by using water that has been brought to a rolling boil for a period of one minute or bottled water. If using an automatic shut off kettle, make sure the water has boiled for one minute.

4/ How do I safely prepare my baby's formula during the Boil Water Notice?

Sterilize all bottles, rings, utensils and nipples in boiling water for two minutes. The water mixed with the formula should boil at a rolling boil for at least two minutes, this will sterilize the water.

5/ Can I use the water for other purposes?

You can use the water for bathing as long as you do not drink it. Supervise babies and children during bathing to ensure that they do not drink the water.

6/ During a Boil Water Notice restaurants/food premises are still open?

When there is a Boil Water Notice, restaurants/food premises are given very specific orders from the Health Unit as to how to operate. These orders will ensure that the foods being served to the public remain safe.

6/ I understand the water district has a tap available for non-chlorinated water

If there is a Boil Water Notice in the Lower Zone of the District there is a water tap located at 1704 Oliver Ranch Road (Well #4) for public use, you may bring your containers to fill. This service is provided Monday-Friday from 7AM-3PM. If however there is a Boil Water Notice in the Upper Zone this tap will be turned off until the water is safe to drink.

