

What To Do Under a Boil Water Notice

Always Follow Your Local Guidelines!











Prioritize Safe Drinking Water

Drink only bottled water, potable water from a reliable source, or vigorously boiled water for at least one minute. Boiling will kill harmful bacteria, viruses, and protozoa. Always store potable water in sanitized, labeled, and capped containers. Avoid drinking water that is discolored or has an unpleasant odor, even after boiling. Brush your teeth, wash your face, wash food, and provide pets with water that has been boiled (then cooled) or potable water from a reliable source. Use only bottled drinking water for preparing infant formula.



Tips for Washing Dishes

Use boiled (then cooled) water or other potable water for washing dishes. If you wash dishes with tap water, use detergent then soak them in a diluted bleach solution (1 tablespoon of unscented bleach per gallon of water). Make sure dishes dry before use.



Tips for Bathing

Tap water may be used by healthy individuals for showering, bathing, and washing the body but not the face. Bathe infants only with drinkable water to prevent them from consuming potentially harmful water. To reduce infection risk, those with open wounds, cuts, blisters, or who are immunocompromised should bathe with boiled or another source of potable water. Chlorine in tap water may cause skin irritation.



Health Risks of Drinking Contaminated Tap Water

Common contaminants in non-potable water include bacteria, viruses, and heavy metals that can cause illness. Boiling water kills bacteria and viruses. A boil notice means that your water is deemed safe to drink after it is boiled, and it is free from metals.



Symptoms of Illness from Contaminated Water

Diarrhea, Nausea and Vomiting, Abdominal Pain and Cramping, Fever, Fatigue, Headache, Muscle Aches, Cough, Shortness of breath



If You Have Diarrhea

Dehydration is especially dangerous for children, older adults, and those with weakened immune systems. Make sure you consume lots of hydrating drinks. If an adult has diarrhea for more than two days, or if a child's diarrhea hasn't improved in 24 hours and is accompanied by a fever of 102 degrees, seek medical attention.



Risk of Respiratory Illness

Legionnaires' disease is pneumonia caused by Legionella bacteria, which spreads through water mist from devices like hot tubs and stagnant water in pipes.

Symptoms include cough, shortness of breath, high fever, muscle aches, headaches, nausea, vomiting, and diarrhea. If symptoms persist, seek medical attention.