

BOIL WATER ADVISORY GUIDELINES

This information was adapted from materials developed by CDC in [Cryptosporidium and Water: A Public Health Handbook](#).

General Users of Public Water Supplies

During a boil water advisory:

- Do not consume tap water that has not been disinfected, ice or drinks made from tap water that has not been disinfected, or raw foods rinsed with tap water that has not been disinfected.
- Disinfect water by
 - boiling at a rolling boil for 1 minute
 - filtering through a [reverse osmosis](#) filter, an [absolute 1 micron](#) filter or a filter certified under NSF International Standard #53 for either [cyst removal](#) or [cyst reduction](#). (Ultraviolet light treatment of water is not effective against [Cryptosporidium](#), at normally used levels).
- Safe alternative sources of potable water include bottled, treated or distilled water.
- Sanitize dishes by washing in dishwashing machines that have a dry cycle or a final rinse that exceeds 113E F for 20 minutes or 122E F for 5 minutes or 162E F for 1 minute. Hand-washed dishes should be rinsed for one minute in a dilute bleach solution (1 tablespoon per gallon) and allowed to air dry.
- It is okay to wash clothes.
- Provide pets with boiled water after it is cooled.

Upon rescinding of a boil water advisory:

- Flush household pipes/faucets: follow the directions of your water utility (in the newspaper, radio, or television) or, as general guidance, run cold water faucets for 3 minutes each if they have not been used in the last 24 hours.
- Flush home automatic ice makers: make three batches of ice cubes and discard all three batches.
- Drain and refill your hot water heater if set at a low temperature (below 113E F).
- Run water softeners through a regeneration cycle.
- Drain reservoirs in tall buildings.
- Flush drinking fountains: run continuously for 3 minutes
- Flush water coolers: run coolers with direct water connections for 5 minutes

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Hospitals, Clinics, Long-term Care Facilities, Nursing Homes, and Assisted Living Facilities

During a boil water advisory:

- Patients and employees should not consume tap water that has not been disinfected, ice or drinks made with tap water that has not been disinfected, or raw foods rinsed with tap water that has not been disinfected.
- Disinfect water by
 - boiling at a rolling boil for 1 minute
 - filtering through a reverse osmosis filter, an Absolute 1 micron® filter or a filter certified under NSF International Standard #53 for either Cyst removal® or Cyst reduction.® (Ultraviolet light treatment of water is not effective against Cryptosporidium, at normally used levels).
- Safe alternative sources of potable water include bottled, treated or distilled water.
- All employees with diarrheal illness should be regulated by standard rules of exclusion from work.
- Restrict burn patients and patients with open sores or wounds from whirlpool treatments.
- Monitor patients closely for signs and symptoms of gastrointestinal illness.
- Sanitize dishes by washing in dishwashing machines that have a dry cycle or a final rinse that exceeds 113E F for 20 minutes or 122E F for 1 minute.

Upon rescinding of a boil water advisory:

- Patients and employees should not consume tap water that has not been disinfected, ice or drinks made with tap water that has not been disinfected, or raw foods rinsed with tap water that has not been disinfected.
- Disinfect water by
 - boiling at a rolling boil for 1 minute
 - filtering through a reverse osmosis filter, an Absolute 1 micron® filter or a filter certified under NSF International Standard #53 for either Cyst removal® or Cyst reduction.® (Ultraviolet light treatment of water is not effective against Cryptosporidium, at normally used levels).
- Safe alternative sources of potable water include bottled, treated or distilled water.
- Note: Renal dialysis units are routinely treated with water using reverse osmosis. This is considered an acceptable treatment process for publicly supplied water under a boil water advisory.

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- All employees with diarrheal illness should be regulated by standard rules of exclusion from work.
- Sanitize dishes by washing in dishwashing machines that have a dry cycle or a final rinse that exceeds 113E F for 20 minutes or 122E F for 5 minutes or 162E f for 1 minute.

Upon rescinding of a boil water advisory:

- Re-start and flush any water-using fixture or piece of equipment in accordance with the manufacturer=s specifications. This may vary from fixture to fixture. Consult your facility=s engineer and/or the manufacturer when re-starting the equipment.
- Managers of large buildings with water-holding reservoirs should consult with their facility engineer and health department about draining the reservoir.
- Follow the directions of your water utility (in the newspaper, radio, or television) or, as general guidance, run cold water faucets and drinking fountains for 3 minutes each if they have not been used in the last 24 hours.
- Run drinking fountains for 3 minutes before using the water or follow the directions of your water utility.
- Drain and refill your hot water heater if set at a low temperature (below 113E F).

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Dental Offices

During a boil water advisory:

- Patients and employees should not rinse out their mouths or consume tap water that has not been disinfected.
- Only use disinfected, bottled, sterile or water treated as described below for all procedures.
- Disinfect water by
 - o boiling at a rolling boil for 1 minute
 - o filtering through a reverse osmosis filter, an [absolute 1 micron](#) filter or a filter certified under NSF International Standard #53 for either [cyst removal](#) or [cyst reduction](#). (Ultraviolet light treatment of water is not effective against [Cryptosporidium](#), at normally used levels).
- All employees with diarrheal illness should be regulated by standard rules of exclusion from work.
- Turn off the tap water supply to high-speed hand pieces. Use water as described above in a closed system, or use a bulb syringe.

Upon rescinding of a boil water advisory:

- Re-start and flush any water-using fixture or piece of equipment in accordance with the manufacturer=s specifications. This may vary from fixture to fixture. Consult your facility=s engineer and/or the manufacturer when re-starting the equipment.
- Managers of large buildings with water-holding reservoirs should consult with their facility engineer and local health department about draining the reservoir.
- Follow the directions of your water utility (in the newspaper, radio, or television) or, as general guidance, run cold water faucets and drinking fountains for 3 minutes each if they have not been used in the last 24 hours.
- Run water softeners through a regeneration cycle.
- Drain and refill your hot water heater if set at a low temperature (below 113E F).

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Commercial Establishments (Restaurants, Hotels, Convenience Stores, etc.)

During a boil water advisory:

- Do not serve or consume tap water that has not been disinfected, ice or drinks made with tap water that has not been disinfected, or raw foods rinsed with tap water that has not been disinfected.
- Disinfect water by
 - o boiling at a rolling boil for 1 minute
 - o filtering through a reverse osmosis filter, an [absolute 1 micron](#) filter or a filter certified under NSF International Standard #53 for either [Acyst removal](#) or [Acyst reduction](#). (Ultraviolet light treatment of water is not effective against *Cryptosporidium*, at normally used levels).
- Safe alternative sources of potable water include bottled, treated or distilled water.
- Sanitize dishes and utensils with a method approved under Chapter 12 of the State Sanitary Code, Sanitation in Retail Food Establishments under N.J.A.C. 8:24-5.5, [Methods and Facilities for Washing and Sanitizing](#).
- Coffee may be made in commercial coffee machines that are capable of achieving 170E F during the percolating or drip cycle.

Upon rescinding of a boil water advisory:

- Re-start and flush any water-using fixture or piece of equipment in accordance with the manufacturer=s specifications. This may vary from fixture to fixture. Consult your facility=s engineer and/or the manufacturer when re-starting the equipment.
- Managers of large buildings with water-holding reservoirs should consult with their facility engineer and health department about draining the reservoir.
- Follow the directions of your water utility (in the newspaper, radio, or television) or, as general guidance, run cold water faucets and drinking fountains for 3 minutes each if they have not been used in the last 24 hours.
- Backwash pool filters and change media or water.
- Run water softeners through a regeneration cycle.
- Drain and refill your hot water heater if set at low

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Commercial Ice Maker Users

Upon rescinding of a boil water advisory:

- A. Flush the water line to the machine inlet:
 - 1. Close the valve on the water line behind the machine and disconnect the water line from the machine inlet.
 - 2. Open the valve, run 5 gallons of water through the valve and dispose of the water.
 - 3. Close the valve.
 - 4. Reconnect the water line to the machine inlet.
 - 5. Open the Valve.

- B. Flush the water lines in the machine:
 - 1. Turn on the machine.
 - 2. Make ice for 1 hour and dispose of the ice.

- C. Clean and sanitize all parts and surfaces that come in contact with water and ice, following the manufacturer=s instructions.