

Boil Orders – What to Do

Under a boil order, you must bring water to a full, rolling boil for at least **one minute** (three minutes if above 6,500 feet) before using it for consumption, including drinking, cooking, brushing teeth, and pet water. Use bottled or cooled boiled water for all ingestion needs, discard ice from automatic makers, and use sanitizer after washing hands.



What to Do During a Boil Order

- **Boil Water:** Bring tap water to a rolling boil for at least 1 minute to kill bacteria, viruses, and parasites.
- **Consume Safely:** Use bottled water or cooled, boiled water for drinking, brushing teeth, washing dishes, food preparation, and mixing baby formula.
- **Ice Makers:** Turn off automatic ice makers and discard any existing ice made during the advisory.
- **Showering/Bathing:** It is generally safe for adults to shower, but avoid swallowing water. Consider sponge baths for young children to prevent accidental ingestion.
- **Dishes/Laundry:** Wash dishes in the dishwasher on the highest heat or sanitation cycle. Clothes can usually be washed in a washing machine.
- **Food Prep:** Use boiled water to wash fruits and vegetables.
- **Pets:** Give pets boiled or bottled water.
- **Clean Surfaces:** Sanitize food-contact surfaces with a mixture of 1 teaspoon of bleach in 1 gallon of water.

What NOT to Do

- Do not drink tap water, even if it is filtered.
- Do not use ice from the freezer or refrigerator dispenser.
- Do not use raw water for brushing teeth or washing food.

After the Boil Order Ends

- Flush household pipes by running cold water faucets for at least 5 minutes.
- Flush hot water heaters and coolers.
- Clean and sanitize any appliances connected to the water line, such as ice makers and water filters.