

How to Use Water Safely During This "Boil Water Advisory"

How do I use water when the boil water advisory has been issued?

The water **should not be used for drinking, making infant formula and juices, cooking, making ice, washing fruits, vegetables or brushing teeth.** For these purposes, boiled water or bottled water should be used. The water should be brought to a rapid rolling boil and boiled for 1 minute. If there are children in the home, place the pot on the back burner to avoid scalds. Boil only as much water in a pot as you can comfortably lift without spilling. Let cool before use. Make ice using boiled, cooled water. **Do not use ice or water made automatically by your refrigerator.**

Can I take a bath?

Adults and teens may shower with untreated water as long as no water is swallowed. Older children could also be given a shower with a handheld showerhead, avoiding the face. Younger children should be sponge-bathed instead of bathing in a tub because they are likely to swallow tub water.

Can I use the water for handwashing?

Yes.

I have a dishwasher. Is it safe to use?

If your dishwasher has a hot setting, it safely disinfects dishes. If your dishwasher does not have a hot setting, after finishing the cycle, soak dishes for 1 minute in a solution of 1 oz. (30 ml) bleach in to 3 gallons of lukewarm water (13.5 litres). Let dishes air dry.

I wash dishes by hand. How do I disinfect them?

You could use boiled water for washing dishes. Dishes washed in soap and hot water can also be rinsed in boiled water or disinfected with the following bleach solution. Mix 1 oz. (about 30 ml) bleach in to 3 gallons (13.5 litres) of water at room temperature for at least 1 minute. Let dishes air dry.

Should I change the way I am doing laundry?

No, continue doing laundry the way you usually do.

I have a water filtration device installed. Does this make the water safe for drinking or cooking?

No. Filtered water should also be brought to a rolling boil for 1 minute before drinking or using it for cooking.

When will the boil water advisory be lifted?

The boil water advisory will be lifted when the Medical Officer of Health is sure that the water is safe. This will follow laboratory testing showing that the water has no evidence of contamination. This may take several days. The media will be informed as soon as the boil water advisory is lifted.

What should I do after the boil water advisory is lifted?

Run cold water faucets for 1 minute before using the water. Run drinking fountains for 1 minute before using the water. Run water softeners through a regeneration cycle. Drain and refill hot water heaters set below 45°C (normal setting is 60°C).

For more information contact the Middlesex-London Health Unit at 663-5317, ext. 2300.

www.healthunit.com