

PREPARING FOOD DURING A BOIL WATER ADVISORY

Immediate Steps to Take When a Boil Water Advisory is Issued:

- DO NOT use the water for drinking, making juices or ice, washing fruits or vegetables, or preparing ready-to eat foods.
- Turn off drinking water fountains.
- Discard ice and beverages that may have been prepared with the affected water supply.
- Discontinue making ice; use ice from a commercial ice supplier made with safe water.
- Disconnect ice cream machines, dipper wells, and any other food preparation equipment connected to the water supply.
- Post signs at all faucets, including kitchen area and washrooms, as a reminder of the boil water advisory and not to drink the water.
- To make the water safe, bring to a rapid rolling boil for at least one minute.
 - Boil only as much water in the pot that one can comfortably lift without spilling.
 - Ensure water is cooled appropriately before using or direct handling to prevent scalds.

What sources of water are approved to be used during a boil water advisory?

- Water that has been boiled for one full minute (water can be boiled the night before, cooled overnight, and stored in a covered disinfected container). Always ensure water is cooled appropriately before use or direct handling to prevent scalds.
- Commercially bottled water (consult with IPAC Lead or designate to confirm brand used has not been affected by the Boil Water Advisory)
- Hauled water from an alternate approved supply not affected by the Boil Water Advisory

Can the cold beverage dispensing machine be used?

No. Beverage machines connected to the cold water supply used to dispense cold drinks (carbonated beverages, iced cappuccino, etc.) must not be used during the boil water advisory.

Can tap water be used in commercial coffee brewers and hot tea towers during a boil water advisory?

Yes. Ensure the coffee maker/hot tea tower produces water at 70°C/160°F. This temperature is sufficient to inactivate disease-causing microorganisms. It is recommended that the coffee pot be held for at least five minutes on the burner prior to consumption.

- Verify temperature using a probe thermometer

Can tap water be used to prepare food products that use water as an ingredient without cooking?

No. Use boiled, bottled, or an alternate safe water source in the preparation of food products such as powdered drinks, puddings, jellies, sauces, etc.

Can tap water be used to prepare food that will be boiled?

Yes. Tap water can be used to prepare foods that will be boiled as long as the water is brought to a rolling boil for one minute.

Can tap water be used to wash dishes by hand?

Yes. Follow 3-compartment sink dishwashing procedure, and ensure dishes have enough time for complete air drying to take place.

Can the commercial dishwasher be used to clean and disinfect dishes?

Yes. Follow normal dishwashing procedures, and ensure dishes have enough time for complete air drying to take place.

Can glass washer with cold water rinse be used?

No. Glass washers with a cold water rinse must not be used during the boil water advisory.

- Use a hot water sanitizing cycle to wash and sanitize glasses.
- For further information, discuss with Public Health.
- Single-use glasses/cups may also be used.

Can domestic style dishwashers be used in the building?

Yes, domestic style dishwashers may be used, provided the machine has a hot temperature setting or sanitizer cycle.

- If the dishwasher does not have a hot temperature setting, stop the dishwasher at the start of the rinse cycle, add 4 teaspoons (20 mL) of liquid household chlorine bleach containing 5.25% sodium hypochlorite, then re-start dishwasher.
- Let dishes dry completely, using a heated cycle dry on the dishwasher.

Can tap water be used for cleaning and disinfecting counter tops, cutting boards, and other kitchen surfaces?

- Wash kitchen surfaces with soap, then rinse and sanitize with bleach solution.
- To prepare the bleach solution (sanitizer strength of 200mg/L chlorine solution), add one teaspoon of liquid household bleach (5.25% sodium hypochlorite) to one litre of room temperature water that has either been previously boiled, is from a safe bottled water source, or has been hauled from a safe public supply.
- Spray or pour solution onto food contact surfaces and let sit for a minimum of 2 minutes.
- Make a new bleach solution every day (bleach breaks down quickly once it is mixed with water).
- Note: vinegar is not an acceptable disinfectant.