

Guidelines for Residential Water Use during Boil Water Orders

During a boil water order, residential users of affected public water supplies should take the following measures to protect themselves from consuming potentially contaminated water:

1. The affected tap water may be used for bathing and/or showering, except for young children, who may drink the water.

2. The affected tap water may be used for household cleaning

3. The affected tap water may be used for dishwashing if a hot water dishwashing machine is used.

4. If dishes are hand washed, boiled or bottled water should be used. The affected tap water may be used if the clean and rinsed dishes are immersed for one minute in a sink of water to which two tablespoons of 5.25% regular household bleach per gallon of water is used. The bleach bottle label will state 5.25% chlorine available and MUST have an EPA registration number (circled in red on partial label below) and be formulated for sanitizing.

5. Bottled water should be used for drinking, cooking, washing fresh fruits and vegetables, hand washing and tooth brushing.

6. The affected tap water should be used for the above only after it has been brought to a rolling boil for 5 minutes. DO NOT BOIL THE WATER MORE THAN 5 MINUTES. Excessive boiling may concentrate any chemical contaminants, raising their concentrations to possible harmful levels.

NOTE: If the tap water is cloudy and/or contains particles, bottled water should be used.



After the "boil water order" is lifted and water service resumes, these precautionary measures should be followed:

1. Flush the building water lines and clean faucet screens.

2. Purge the water using fixtures and appliances of standing water and ice such as in icemakers and coffee makers.