

Boil Water Advisory

How to Use Water During a Boil Water Advisory

The following offers advice on how to use water if a Boil Water Advisory is issued in your community.

If an Advisory is issued, what do I do?

DO NOT use untreated water for:

- Drinking
- Preparing and cooking food
- Making infant formula and beverages
- Making ice
- Washing fruits or vegetables
- Brushing teeth
- a sanitizing solution of 1 oz (~30 ml) of bleach mixed in 1 gallon (4.5 litres) of warm water.
- Let dishes air dry.

Boiled water or bottled water can be used for these tasks.

To ensure water is safe for use, water should be brought to a rolling boil for at least 1 minute to kill all disease-causing organisms. An electric kettle with an automatic shut-off should not be used.

To make ice, throw away all ice made earlier and disinfect trays. Use boiled, cooled water in cleaned trays.

It is not necessary to boil tap water used for other household purposes, such as showering, laundry or bathing. Toddlers and infants should be sponge bathed as they may get water into their mouths.

Can I use the water to wash hands?

If an Advisory has been issued, wash your hands with warm, running water and soap.

Is my dishwasher safe to use?

Wash dishes using a dishwasher then rinse them in a "sanitizing" solution:

How to sanitize dishes if washing dishes by hand?

Boiled water can be used for washing dishes. Dishes washed in soap and hot water can also be rinsed in boiled water **or** sanitized with the following diluted bleach solution:

- Mix 1 oz (~30 ml) bleach with 1 gallon (4.5 litres) of water at room temperature for at least 1 minute.
- Let dishes air dry.

Should I change how I do laundry?

Continue doing laundry the way you usually do. If you have to wash sheets heavily soiled with feces, carefully remove soil before you place the sheets in the washer, without much agitation of the cloth. Use rubber gloves when handling heavily soiled sheets.

Is the water safe for wading pools?

The water is not safe to use in wading pools. Water can get into the mouths of small children and cause an infection.

Does filtered water need to be boiled?



Filtered water does **not** make it safe for drinking or cooking. Filtered water should be brought to a rolling boil for 1 minute before drinking or using it for cooking.

When does a Boil Water Advisory end?

The Medical Officer of Health has the final say. As a rule, a Boil Water Advisory is lifted when the original problem has been fixed and two sets of water samples, taken 24-48 hours apart, from all parts of the water system, are returned with results indicating the water is "safe to drink".

What should I do after the Boil Water Advisory ends?

1. Run cold water taps and drinking water fountains for at least 1 minute before using the water.
 2. Replace water filters used to filter untreated water.
 3. Flush all garden hoses by running water for 1 minute.
 4. Run water softeners through a regeneration cycle.
- Drain and refill hot water heaters set below 45°C (normal setting is 60°C).

If you have any questions, please contact Lambton Public Health (519) 383 -8331 or toll-free 1-800-663-1839.