

Boil Water Notice

A boil water notice is issued when fecal coliform or E. coli bacteria have been detected in the water samples collected by the Public Water System. Because of this contamination, **water must not be used or consumed without boiling it first**. Fecal coliform and E. coli are bacteria whose presence indicates that the water may be contaminated with human or animal wastes. Microbes in these wastes can cause diarrhea, cramps, nausea, headaches, or other symptoms. They may pose a special health risk for infants, young children, some of the elderly, and people with severely compromised immune systems. The symptoms above are not caused only by organisms in contaminated drinking water. If you experience any of these symptoms that persist, you may want to seek medical advice.

Vigorous boiling for one (1) minute should kill any disease-causing bacteria that may be present in the water. As an alternative, you may use bottled water. Boiled or bottled water should be used for drinking, making ice, brushing teeth, washing dishes, and food preparation until further notice.

General guidelines on ways to lessen the risk of infection by microbes are available from the EPA Safe Drinking Water Hotline at 1-800-426-4791.

Considerations During a Boil Water Notice (items to be considered on an Emergency Operations Plan)



Carefully wash hands with soap and rinse with previously boiled or bottled water. Set up temporary handwash stations with boiled/bottled water.



Use pre-washed packaged produce or frozen and canned fruits and vegetables. Wash raw fruits, vegetables, and salads with previously boiled water before eating.



Do not use tap water for making sanitizer unless it has been adequately boiled first. Use pre-mixed sanitizer if available, or boiled/bottled water. Sanitizer dispensers cannot be used during a boil water notice.



Mechanical dishwashers cannot be used during a boil water notice. Single service eating and drinking utensils should be used.



Ice made with non-boiled tap water should NOT be used; buy from a safe source. Bottled or boiled water is required for all beverages made by mixing with water such as instant tea/coffee, auto drip coffee makers, etc.



Water filters are not a replacement for boiling water, water must still be boiled or bottled water must be used.



Anyone who may have consumed the water should watch for symptoms like diarrhea or vomiting and contact their doctor if these symptoms develop.

Restaurants, meat markets, and other permitted facilities may not operate during a boil water notice. Permitted facilities must close until a safe water supply is verified by the water authority unless an approved Emergency Operations Plan, as stated in NC Food Code 8-404.11, is in place.

Recovery Once the Boil Water Notice has been Lifted:

- Run water for a few minutes once the notice is lifted to flush the lines.
- Run your dishwasher through a cycle prior to using.
- Replace all filters you may have according to manufacturer's recommendations.
- Flush lines to all water using fixtures, such as beverage dispensers, coffee makers, ice machines, water fountains, etc.
- Dispose of any ice and beverages made during the boil water notice using tap water.
- Dispose of any food made with, or produce washed with contaminated tap water.