

# How to Use Water at Home During a Boil Water Advisory

## Drinking water and preparing food

- **Don't** use tap water for drinking, preparing food, making juices, and vegetables, making rice, or preparing infant formula.
- **Throw away** any ice, filtered water, drinks, or food made with contaminated water.
- **Don't** use a home water filter to try to make your water safe. Home water filters are not able to safely treat contaminated water.
- **Don't** give your pets tap water to drink.
- **Don't** use tap water for a pod-style coffee maker. A regular drip coffee maker tends to be safe to use as the water reaches a high enough temperature.

## How to make your water safe to drink

- Bring your water to a rolling boil for at least 1 minute before drinking and preparing food.
- Store boiled water in a clean and covered container in the fridge after letting it cool.

## Cleaning and dishwashing

You can use tap water:

- for laundry and cleaning surfaces that don't come in contact with food, such as walls or floors.
- in a dishwasher using either high heat setting or the sanitize cycle.

## Sanitizing surfaces and dishes

Sanitize surfaces that come in contact with food (such as dishes, counters, and cutting boards) after cleaning with soap and rinsing.

### To sanitize surfaces:

- Add 5mL (1tsp) of liquid, unscented chlorine bleach to 1L of bottled or use boiled water that has been cooled.

### To sanitize dishes:

- Add 10mL (2tsp) of liquid unscented chlorine bleach to 5L of tap water in an empty sink.
- Don't add soap
- Soak dishes for 2 minutes.

## Taking care of your body

- Don't use tap water to brush your teeth - use bottled water or boiled water instead.
- Don't use tap water to fill a wading pool, play areas, or water play tables.
- You can use tap water to shower and bathe. Watch small children to make sure they don't drink the water.
- You can use tap water for handwashing. Always use a hand sanitizer with at least 60% alcohol after you wash your hands with soap and tap water.

## After the boil water advisory ends

- Turn on all taps and flush water lines for at least 5 minutes (10 minutes if you live in an apartment building).
- Read instructions from the manufacturer for how to flush, clean, and sanitize containers that protect and store drinking water (called cisterns), water filters, and ice and water dispensers.

- Drain and refill hot water tanks that are set below 45° C.
- Run water softeners through a regeneration cycle (see the instructions from the manufacturer.)

**More information**

Find out more about boil water advisories and how to store water from [Environmental Public Health](#).