WHAT TO DO AFTER A BOIL WATER ADVISORY HAS ENDED

Businesses - Checklist

WHEN A BUSINESS IS NOTIFIED THAT THE BOIL WATER ADVISORY HAS ENDED AND THE DRINKING WATER SUPPLY IS SAFE, THE FOLLOWING ACTIONS NEED TO BE TAKEN BEFORE YOU CONSUME THE WATER.

**FLUSH WATER**

- Unscrew and remove the faucet aerator (screen).
- Turn on each cold water faucet/tap slowly.
- Run cold water for five minutes.
- Clean and reinstall aerator.

**HOT WATER TANKS / BOILERS**

To clear hot water pipes and water heater of untreated water:

- Run hot water only at all faucets and flush until water runs cool or typically for a minimum of:
  - 15 minutes for a typical household 40 gallon hot water tank.
  - 30 minutes for a hot water tank greater than 40 gallons.
  - Consult water system professionals regarding the draining, flushing, or treatment for large capacity hot water tanks/boilers designed to deliver hot water.

- Hot water is then safe to use for washing of dishes, pots and pans, etc. by hand.

**REPLACE FILTERS**

Water filters that are commonly used in refrigerators, faucets, pitchers, under the sink, and the whole house, etc. are not designed to remove the specific bacteria potentially present during a boil water advisory. If you ran water through your filter during the boil water advisory, the filter could be contaminated. Remove and discard water filters.

- Remove and discard water filters.
- Replace with a new filter following flushing.

Note: If you cannot flush or run water when filter is removed, replace with new filter after flushing. Always follow manufacturer’s directions for filter replacement.

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Always read the owner’s manual for directions to clean and flush all appliances that use water.

### DISHWASHERS
- After flushing hot water pipes and water heater, run empty dishwasher one time on the hottest or ‘sanitize’ cycle.

### REFRIGERATORS / FREEZERS
- Always follow filter replacement recommendations above.
  - For refrigerators without filters, flush water dispensers by running at least one quart of water.
    - If unsure of your dispenser’s capacity, refer to manufacturer specifications.
  - Flush home automatic ice makers. Make three batches of ice cubes and discard all batches.

### ICE MACHINES
- Discard ice from ice machines.
- Clean and sanitize per manufacturer’s instructions.
- Flush ice machines by following the manufacturer’s instructions, including:
  - Flush the water line to the machine inlet.
  - Close the valve on the water line behind the machine.
  - Disconnect the water line from the machine inlet.
  - Open the valve and run 5 gallons of water through the valve. Dispose of this water.
  - Close the valve.
  - Reconnect the water line to the machine inlet.
  - Open the valve.
  - Replace any filters and sanitize filter holders.
  - Flush the water lines in the machine.
  - Turn on the machine.
  - Make ice for 1 hour and dispose of this ice.
  - Clean and sanitize all parts and surfaces that come in contact with water and ice per the manufacturer’s instructions.

### PORTABLE HUMIDIFIERS
- Discard any water used in the device.
- Rinse the device with clean water and sanitize.
- If your humidifier has a filter, sanitize the humidifier and replace the filter.
  - Always follow the manufacturer’s instructions when you use bleach or any other cleaning product.
  - Use distilled or demineralized water in humidifiers.

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**FURNACE HUMIDIFIERS**
There is potential for bacteria to grow on humidifier pads and in humidifier reservoirs after a boil water advisory.
- Follow manufacturer's guidelines to clean and disinfect all parts of the humidifier.
- Replace humidifier pad if it cannot be disinfected.

**WATER COOLERS / DRINKING FOUNTAINS**
Check water coolers/drinking fountains to determine if there is a filter. Follow filter replacement procedures where applicable.
- Flush water coolers.
- Run coolers with direct water connections for 5 minutes.

**WATER SOFTENERS**
- Run water softeners through a full regeneration (flush) cycle.