

Boil Water Advisory



If we have issued a boil advisory, you should use bottled water or boiled tap water until the advisory is lifted.

- Use bottled or boiled water for drinking, and to prepare and cook food.
- If bottled water is not available, bring water to a full rolling boil for 1 minute. After boiling, allow water to cool before use.
- Boil tap water even if it's filtered (for example, by a home water filter or pitcher filter)
- Do not use water from any appliance connected to your water line, such as ice or water from your refrigerator.

What should I do about...

...handwashing?

- In many cases, you can still use tap water and soap to wash hands during a boil water advisory
- Be sure to scrub your hands with soap and water for at least 20 seconds, and rinse them well under running water.
- If soap and water are unavailable, use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer that contains at least 60% alcohol.

...bathing & showering?

- Be careful not to swallow water while bathing or showering
- use caution when bathing babies or young children - consider a sponge bath to reduce the chance of them swallowing water.

...brushing teeth?

- Brush teeth with boiled or bottled water - do not use tap water that has not been boiled first.

...caring for pets?

- Pets can get sick from some of the same germs as people, or spread germs to people. Give pets bottled water, or boiled water that has been cooled.

...washing dishes?

- If possible, use disposable plates, cups, and utensils until the advisory is lifted.
- Household dishwashers are generally safe to use if:
 - The water reaches a final rinse temperature of at least 150°F / 66°C or
 - The dishwasher has a dedicated 'sanitize' cycle setting
- Sanitize all baby bottles
- To wash dishes by hand:
 - Wash & rinse as normal using hot water
 - In a separate basin, add 1 teaspoon of unscented household liquid bleach for each gallon of water water
 - Soak the rinsed dishes in the water for at least 1 minute
 - Let the dishes are dry completely before use

...laundry?

- It is safe to wash clothes as usual.

...household cleaning?

- Clean washable toys and surfaces with bottled water, boiled water that has been cooled, or water that has been disinfected with bleach.

...gardening & plant care?

- You may use tap water for house plants and gardens as usual.

staying informed during a boil water advisory:

- Sign up for VTAlert: vem.vermont.gov/vtalert
- Visit our website: www.burlingtonvt.gov/water
- Follow us on social media
- Call us at: (802) 863-4501
- Email us at: water-resources@burlingtonvt.gov

