

Morgan County Health Department

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GUIDELINES FOR RESIDENTIAL WATER USE DURING BOIL WATER ORDERS

During a boil water order, residential users of affected public water supplies should take the following measures to protect themselves from consuming potentially contaminated water:

1. Bottled water should be used for drinking, cooking, washing fresh fruits/vegetables, hand washing and tooth brushing.
2. The affected tap water should be used for these purposes only after it has been brought to a **rolling boil for 5 minutes**. **DO NOT BOIL THE WATER FOR LONGER TIMES**. Excessive boiling may concentrate any chemical contaminants, raising their concentrations to harmful levels.
3. Boiled or bottled water should be used for dishwashing. The affected tap water may be used if clean dishes are immersed for at least one minute in a sink of water to which one full tablespoon of regular household bleach has been added.
4. The affected tap water may be used for bathing and/or showering.
5. The affected water may be used for household cleaning.
6. Ice made from affected water should not be consumed

NOTE: If the tap water is cloudy and/or contains particles, bottled water should be used.

After the "boil water" orders is lifted or water service resumes, these precautionary measures should be followed:

1. Flush the building water lines and clean faucet screens.
2. Purge the water-using fixtures and appliances of standing water and ice such as refrigerator icemakers or coffee makers.

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GUIDELINES FOR RESTORING SERVICE AFTER A BOIL ORDER

After the "boil water" order is lifted or water service resumes, these precautionary measures must be followed:

- 1) Run all water lines for one minute to flush contaminated water from system. This includes each fill point for post-mix soda and beverage machines.
- 2) Clean and sanitize all fixtures, sinks and equipment connected to water lines.
- 3) Run your dishwasher empty through three complete cycles to flush the water lines and assure that the dishwasher is cleaned internally before washing equipment and utensils in it.
- 4) Discard all ice in ice machines; clean and sanitize (1 tablespoon of bleach per gallon of potable water) the interior surfaces; run the ice through 3 cycles and discard ice with each cycle.
- 5) Replace all ice machine filters, beverage dispenser filters and flush water lines in dispensers for 10-15 minutes.