

What To Do During A Boil Order?

Frequently Asked Questions

Boil Water

1. Fill a pot with water.
2. Heat the water until bubbles come from the bottom of the pot to the top.
3. Once the water reaches a rolling boil, let it boil for 1 minute.
4. Turn off the heat source and let the water cool.
5. Pour the water into a clean container with a cover for storage.

Sanitize Containers

1. Use unscented bleach (bleach that does not have an added scent).
2. Make a sanitizing solution by mixing 1 teaspoon (5 milliliters) of unscented household liquid bleach in 1 quart (32 ounces, 4 cups, or about 1 liter) of water.
3. Pour this sanitizing solution into a clean storage container and shake well, making sure that the solution coats the entire inside of the container.
4. Let the clean storage container sit at least 30 seconds and then pour the solution out of the container.
5. Let empty container air dry OR rinse it with clean water that has already been made safe, if available.

Important: Never mix bleach with ammonia or other cleaners. Open windows and doors to get fresh air when you use bleach.

Kitchen and Household Water Filters

- Boil tap water even if it is filtered with a kitchen or household water filter. Most kitchen and other household water filters typically do not remove bacteria or viruses.

Preparing and Cooking Food

- Wash all fruits and vegetables with boiled water that has cooled or use bottled water.
- Bring water to a rolling boil for 1 minute before adding food to cook.
- Use boiled water when preparing drinks, such as coffee, tea, and lemonade
- Wash food preparation surfaces with boiled water.



Feeding Babies and Using Formula

- If not breastfeeding, use ready-to-use baby formula, if possible.
- If ready-to-use baby formula is not available, use bottled water to prepare powdered or concentrated baby formula.
- If bottled water is not available, use boiled water to prepare baby formula.
- Wash and sterilize bottles and nipples in either bottled water or water that has been made safe to use.
- If you cannot sterilize bottles, use single-serve, ready-to-feed bottles.

Ice

- Do not use ice from ice trays, ice dispensers, or ice makers.
- Throw out all ice made with tap water.
- Make new ice with boiled or bottled water.

Toilets

- The water can be used to flush the toilets as usual.

Bathing and Showering

- Be careful not to swallow any water when bathing or showering.
- Use caution when bathing babies and young children. Consider giving them a sponge bath to reduce the chance of them swallowing water.

Brushing Teeth

- Brush teeth with boiled or bottled water. Do not use untreated tap water.

Saline Irrigation

- Use bottled water for nasal saline irrigation (Neti pot). Do not use tap water to make saline solution.

Washing Dishes

- Household dishwashers are generally safe to use if the water reaches a final rinse temperature of at least 150 degrees or if the dishwasher has a sanitizing cycle.
- To wash dishes by hand:
 1. Wash and rinse the dishes as you normally would using hot water.
 2. In a separate basin, add 1 teaspoon of unscented household liquid bleach for each gallon of warm water.
 3. Soak the rinsed dishes in the water for at least one minute.
 4. Let the dishes air dry completely.

Laundry

- It is safe to do laundry as usual, unless the water is cloudy.

Pets

- Pets can get some of the same diseases as people. It is a good idea to give them boiled water that has been cooled.

For More Information, Contact:

- **EPA Safe Drinking Water Hotline** (provides information and guidance about drinking water quality, emergencies, contaminants, public health issues, treatment, and storage): Toll free at **1-800-426-4791**
- **County Health Departments:**
https://www.ok.gov/triton/modules/health/map/county_map.php
- **Local Public Water Supply**
- **Oklahoma Department of Environmental Quality:**
<https://www.deq.ok.gov/external-affairs-division/contact-ask-deq/>