

BOIL ORDER

What is a Boil Order?

A boil order is a notification made by the water system operator announcing that certain areas of the water supply are or might be contaminated with bacteria. This order advises people to boil the contaminated water prior to using it in order to make it safe for drinking (or purchase commercially bottled water). Public notification is made so users of the affected system may receive knowledge of the contamination. **IF THERE IS NO WAY TO BOIL WATER OR PROVIDE APPROVED ALTERNATIVE SOURCES, OPERATIONS MUST CEASE.**

What Is Potable Water?

Potable water is water of sufficiently high quality that it can be consumed or used without risk of immediate or long term harm. **IF SUITABLE AMOUNTS OF POTABLE WATER ARE NOT AVAILABLE OR IF WATER IS SHUT OFF, THE ESTABLISHMENT MUST CEASE OPERATIONS.**

Potable Water Should Be Used to:

- Make coffee, tea or other beverages
- Wash hands
- Wash produce or for other food preparation
- Make ice
- Wash dishes or clean food contact surfaces
- Make sanitizer solution
- Cook foods

Direct plumbed kitchen equipment should NOT be used, including:

- Handwash sinks
- Coffee/tea machines
- Soda/beverage machines, guns
- On-site ice machines
- Dipper wells/water baths
- Misters in produce area (unless on a reverse osmosis system)
- Mechanical dish machines
- Three compartment sink for dish washing
- Water fountains

Alternative procedures to minimize water use:

- Use commercially bottled drinks
- Use single-service items
- Use pre-packaged foods when possible
- Restrict menus/hours of operation
- Use Commercially packaged ice
- Provide portable toilets for sanitary purposes

After the boil order:

- Run all water lines for one minute to flush contaminated water from the system, including all soda machine taps.
- Clean and sanitize all fixtures, sinks and equipment connected to waterlines.
- Run the dishwasher empty through three complete cycles before use.
- Discard all ice in the ice machines, clean and sanitize the inside surfaces, run the ice through a cycle again, discard ice.
- Flush all water lines and clean all filters, screens and strainers.

During the Boil Order:

To operate a food facility during a boil order, potable water must be provided.

If this is not possible, water may be used if brought to a rolling boil and boiled for 1 minute.



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