



Boil-water advisories are public announcements by local water authorities advising the public to boil their tap water for drinking and other human consumption uses to protect public health from waterborne infectious agents that could be, or are known to be, present in drinking water.

During a Boil Order or Advisory

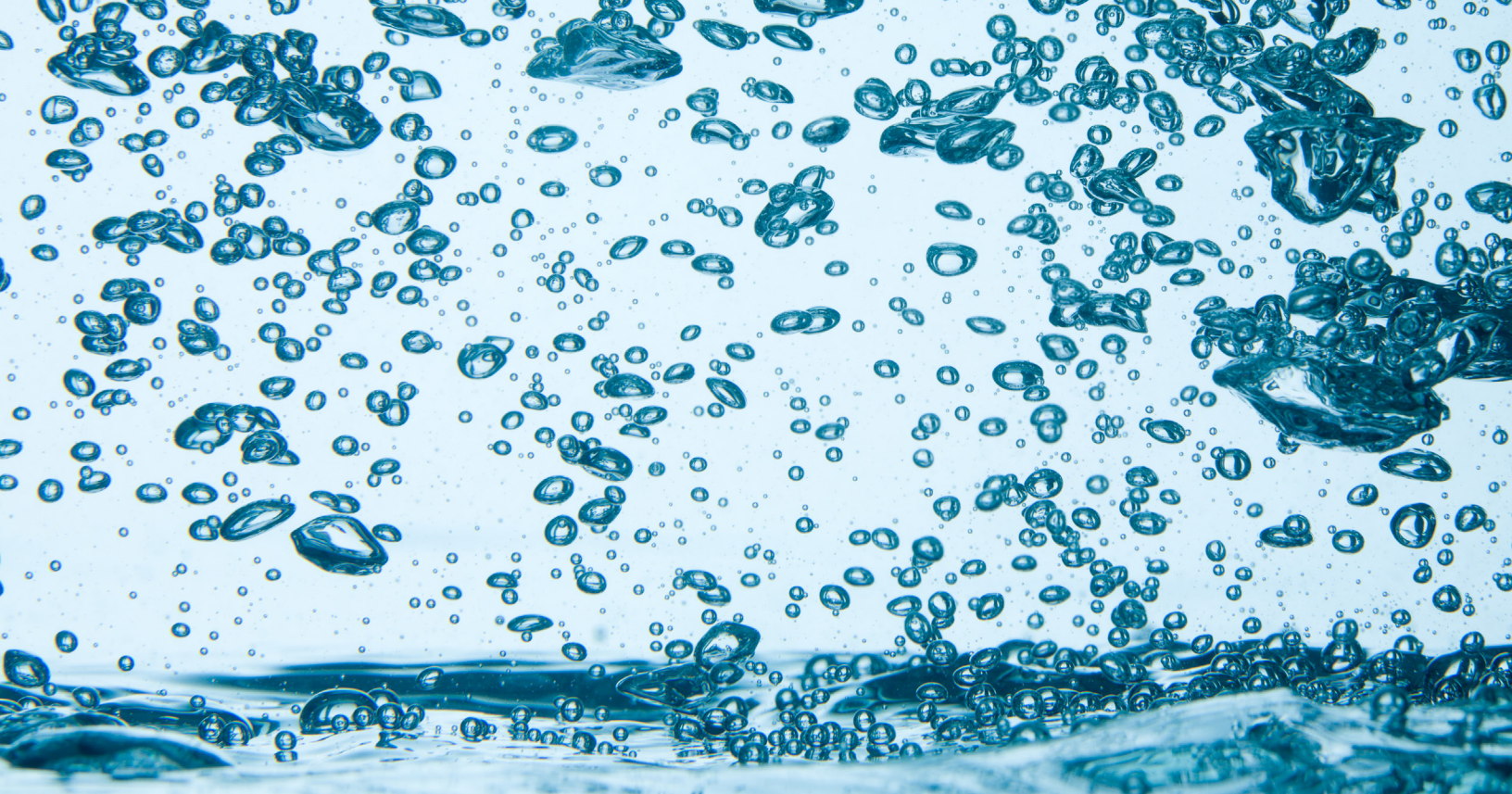
Once hearing the local area is impacted by a boil order or boil water advisory, begin using bottled water or boiled tap water.

This includes using water for drinking, cooking, washing dishes, cleaning surfaces, brushing teeth, bathing, and providing water to pets.

- Boil tap water even if it is filtered.
- Do not use water from any appliances, such as ice and water from a refrigerator.
- Use disposable plates, cups, and utensils, if available.

If you typically use powdered formula for infants:

- For child safety, breastfeed infants or offer ready-to-use formula.
- If only powdered formula is available, prepare it with bottled or boiled water.
- Do not prepare powdered formula with untreated tap water during a boil order.



Steps to Boil Water

- Bring water to a full, rolling boil for 1 minute.
- Allow boiled water to cool before using to avoid burns.

Washing Dishes

Household dishwashers are safe to use if the water reaches a final rinse temperature of at least 150 F or if the dishwasher has a sanitizing cycle.

To wash dishes by hand:

- Wash dishes in hot water.
- In a separate container, add 1 teaspoon of regular, unscented household bleach to 1 gallon of room-temperature water.
- Add washed and rinsed dishes to the bleach-water solution for at least 1 minute.
- Let the dishes air dry completely before using.

Eating off dishware that has been sanitized with diluted bleach is safe. Do not add extra bleach.

Call Your Local Office

Contact your local Illinois Extension office with your food safety questions: go.illinois.edu/FindILExtension.

References

- [Boil Water Advisory](#), Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.
- [Disaster Planning: Infant and Child Feeding](#), Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.
- [Guidance for Industry: Use of Water by Food Manufacturers in Areas Subject to a Boil-Water Advisory](#), U.S. Food and Drug Administration.

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