



Purifying Drinking Water (from Taps or Wells)

If you receive water from a small or large water company, please contact them for information on the safety of your water.

Municipal Tap Water

DURING the “BOIL WATER” Order

- Water provided by your water supplier during a “Boil Water” Order should not be consumed (do not drink) unless it is boiled or otherwise disinfected first.
- Disinfect suspicious drinking water, stored or from the tap, before consuming. **Vigorously boiling water for 3 minutes (one minute minimum) is the safest way to disinfect drinking water. Let it cool before using.** Use boiled or bottled water to wash fruits and vegetables.
- Store-bought water purification tablets (follow manufacturer’s directions) or regular household bleach are also acceptable for drinking water disinfection. Using bleach: add 8 drops per one gallon of clear water, or 16 drops per one gallon of cloudy water, and let stand for 30 minutes before using.



Caution: Only use household chlorine bleach with no fabric softeners or other additives.

- Water provided during a “Boil Water” Order is safe to use for laundry, and for bathing in healthy adults. It is recommend to use boiled and cooled water (or bottled water) for bathing infants.
- Wash dishes in hot soapy water, and as an extra precaution, sanitize washed dishes by soaking them in a solution of 1 teaspoon of bleach per one gallon water for one minute. Remove, and allow to fully air dry.

AFTER the “BOIL WATER” Order is Lifted

- Flush water lines by running all cold water faucets in the home for at least one minute, up to five minutes, including any refrigerator water-dispensers.
- Flush the hot water lines for a minimum of 15 minutes for a typical household 40-gallon hot-water tank, 30 minutes for an 80-gallon hot water tank or larger.
- After flushing hot water pipes and water heater, run dishwasher empty one time.
- Flush automatic ice makers by discarding three (3) batches of ice made.
- Change all water filters currently installed (e.g. refrigerator, under-sink, showers, pitchers).
- Run water softeners through a regeneration cycle.
- Run drinking water fountains for one (1) minute.
- Flush each toilet, and clean/sanitize all pet bowls.

Private Wells and Water Storage Tanks

- If you are unsure of the quality or condition of your water, take safety precautions to disinfect the water before consuming. See instructions for boiling or using chlorine bleach for disinfection in the “Boil Water” section above.
- Wells and water lines that have been flooded, damaged, or otherwise contaminated, including mud flow over or around the top of the well head, **MUST** be disinfected before use.



WARNING: There is a danger of electrical shock and damage to the well and/or pump if they have been flooded. Keep children and animals away from the area, and wear protective gear.

- Pump well water to a waste line or appropriate site until it runs clear and colorless.
- Stop pump, turn OFF electrical power to pump.
- Open well by removing cap and add bleach based on the following table:

Chlorine Required to Dose 100 Feet of Pipe at 50 Parts Per Million (PPM)	
Diameter of Pipe Casing (in inches)	5.25% Sodium Hypochlorite (household bleach)
2	.25 cup
4	1.125 cups
6	2.5 cups
8	4.25 cups
10	7 cups

- Wait 30 minutes, then surge the well by turning the pump off and on. If possible, use the chlorinated water pumping from the well to wash down the casing.
- If there is a water storage tank, this also needs to be disinfected at the same time as the well. Add bleach based on the following table:

Water Storage Tank Disinfection to Reach 50 PPM	
Amount of water to be treated (in gallons)	5.25% Sodium Hypochlorite (household bleach)
1,000	1 gallon
2,000	2 gallons
5,000	5 gallons
10,000	10 gallons
25,000	25 gallons

- Open taps at the farthest end of the water system and throughout the house until chlorine odor is detected, then close the taps.
- Let the chlorinated water remain in the well, the storage tank, and any piping in the house for at least 24 hours.
- Flush water to a waste line or appropriate site until there is no chlorine odor in the water. **DO NOT** dump highly chlorinated water to your septic system, or discharge to creeks or rivers.
- Test your water for coliform bacteria to be sure that it is safe for drinking.
- Bacteria may regrow in your water system. It is important to retest your water between two to four weeks after disinfection. If bacteria is detected, repeat disinfection procedure.
- If there has been damage to your water lines, those will also need to be disinfected and flushed once they are repaired, before use.