



MIDDLESEX COUNTY OFFICE OF PUBLIC HEALTH

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BOIL WATER ADVISORY

Boil Water Guidelines for Retail Food Establishments

When a Boil Water Advisory is issued for your community please follow these recommended guidelines until the advisory has ended:

- Do not serve or consume tap water unless it has been brought to a rolling boil for one (1) minute.
- Use bottled water for consumption if available.
- Allow water to cool before using for consumption; drinking, ice cubes, washing vegetables and fruit.
- Do not use tap water for any food preparation.
- Shut off service to equipment with water line connections (post-mix beverage machines, spray misters, auto-fill coffee/tea makers, instant hot water heaters, ice machines)
- Throw away ice made prior to the boil water advisory issuance and stop making ice. (Use commercially manufactured ice.)
- If water pressure is too low to wash hands, flush toilets, sanitize utensils, etc., your establishment must be closed.
- Follow any other directions from your water supplier and/or the Health Department.

The public water supply can be used to:

Wash hands, run automatic dishwashers, and wash dishes or clothes

When the water advisory has ended, please follow these recommended guidelines:

- Make sure equipment with water line connections is flushed, cleaned, and sanitized according to manufacturer's instructions.
- Flush pipes and faucets. Run all cold water faucets and drinking fountains for at least five minutes.
- Run water softeners through a regeneration cycle.
- Follow any other directions from your water provider and/or Health Department.

If you have any questions regarding these guidelines, please contact the Middlesex County Public Health Department at 732-745-3100.

If you have questions about your water system, please contact your water supplier.

Sources of information:

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

http://www.cdc.gov/healthywater/drinking/travel/emergency_disinfection.html

http://www.cdc.gov/parasites/crypto/health_professionals/bwa/commercial.html

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