

Water Safety

Boil Water Alert (Guidance for Food Service Establishments)



Boil Water Alert

Temporary water disruption usually requires consumers to boil water before use. A boil alert may be issued for any of the following reasons:

- Bacterial/microbial tests indicating the presence of contaminants into the water supply.
- Following the occurrence of an outbreak of illness within the community that has been linked to the consumption of water or products that may have been contaminated by the water.
- Information received from water supply source operators which may include a loss in pressure, damage, or break in water supply source lines, or decrease in disinfectant levels within the water supply, or other known event.

The extent of restriction on water use depends on the situation or event.

Simple procedures for boiling water

1. Draw water from tap into a clean, heat resistant container.
2. Place container on a safe heat source.
3. Heat water until it is brought to a rapid rolling boil.
4. Continue a rolling boil for a minimum of five minutes.
5. After five minutes cool water by pouring it in another clean and/or sanitary container and store in the refrigerator. *(The second container will help expedite the cool-down process)*



Hand washing

Utilize hand washing sinks with hot water and soap as usual.

Warewashing

Use one of the following:

- A three-compartment sink for washing, rinsing, and sanitizing. The third sink will contain a sanitizer with the proper level of sanitizer. (50-100 ppm chlorine, 200 ppm quaternary ammonia)
- An approved high temperature dish machine
- A chemical sanitizer dishwasher, if available, with the proper sanitizer level listed above
- Single service utensils and dishware. Provide an adequate number of back-up utensils (properly sanitized) for dispensing.

Bottled Water

Bottled water must be used for the following:

- Customer- Serving water to the customer

- Food Preparation- Preparing vegetables and other food preparation utilizing water
- Ice- Use only bagged ice (unaffected source). Discard existing ice. Turn off the ice machine until the water supply approval is given.
- Beverages- Do not use a water-supplied beverage dispenser unit. Provide individual can or bottled beverages.

Note: If the establishment has no water supply or cannot meet the above requirements, the establishment shall voluntarily close.

Contact SCCHD Division of Environmental Health (810) 987-5306 for further guidance.



For more sources of information on this topic visit:

ST. CLAIR COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT www.scchealth.co

MICHIGAN DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES www.michigan.gov/mdhhs

MICHIGAN DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY (DEQ) www.michigan.gov/deq

MICHIGAN DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT (MDARD) www.michigan.gov/mdard