



MIDDLESEX COUNTY OFFICE OF PUBLIC HEALTH

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BOIL WATER ADVISORY

Boil Water Guidelines for the General Public

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

- Do not 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, and for brushing teeth.
- Do not use tap water for any food preparation.
- Shut off service to equipment with water line connections (automatic ice makers, water coolers) and throw away ice made prior to the boil water advisory.
- Follow any other directions from your local water utility and/or the Health Department.

Water does not have to be boiled for the following activities:
Showering, washing dishes, or clothes

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

- Flush pipes and faucets. Run cold water faucets for at least five minutes.
- Flush water coolers. Run coolers with direct water connections for five minutes.
- Flush home automatic ice makers. Make three batches of ice cubes and throw away all three batches.
- 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/index.html

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