

## WHAT IS A BOIL WATER NOTICE?

- A BOIL WATER NOTICE is issued to inform customers of a potential health hazard.
- A BOIL WATER NOTICE directs customers what to do.
- A BOIL WATER NOTICE states what has happened .
- A BOIL WATER NOTICE tells when conditions have returned to safe.



**DURING A BOIL WATER NOTICE:  
NEVER DRINK TAP WATER  
WITHOUT BOILING IT FIRST!**

## What should I do if I get sick?

Contact your local health care provider. Some people with weakened immune systems can be at greater risk for infections.



**For additional information, contact:**



Elkins Water Works  
304-636-2250

Randolph County  
Health Department  
304-636-0396



# BOIL WATER NOTICE INFORMATION

**DRINKING WATER  
BULLETIN BOARD  
CALL 24/7  
304-637-3582**

## FAQ's

- Q: Do I need to boil water that I am using to cook vegetables or for vegetables to be eaten raw?**
- A: YES. You should boil water for everything you will be consuming or using for personal hygiene.
- Q: If I am boiling the water as part of the cooking process, do I still need to boil the water before using it?**
- A: If you are boiling water as part of the cooking process, make sure it boils for at least one minute before you add food to it.
- Q: Do I need to boil water for washing my dishes?**
- A: As long as you add 1 Tablespoon of unscented, household bleach to a sink full of tap water to wash dishes in, you do not have to boil it. The same amount of bleach must be added to the rinse water. Allow the dishes to air-dry.
- Q: Do I need to boil water for brushing teeth or washing hands?**
- A: YES. Any water that might be swallowed, or used for personal hygiene, should be boiled.
- Q: Should bath water for infants be boiled?**
- A: YES. Bath water for infants and toddlers should be boiled. Be sure the water has cooled before putting your infant or toddler in it; a sponge bath might be easier during a Boil Water Notice.
- Q: Do I need to boil water for washing clothes or flushing the toilet?**
- A: NO. It will not be consumed.
- Q: Should I boil water for my pets to drink?**
- A: It certainly won't hurt to boil it, but your vet should be able to tell you if this is a necessary pre-caution or not.

## WHY IS A BOIL WATER NOTICE ISSUED?

When a BOIL WATER NOTICE is issued by your Water Supplier or Bureau of Public Health, it means conditions indicate there is a probability that your water is contaminated. This condition may be caused by a water main break or a water treatment violation. Proper testing must be done to confirm or deny the presence of contamination in your water.

## WHAT SHOULD I DO?

You should bring all water to a rapid vigorous boil for one minute (let it cool before using) or use bottled water. Boiled or bottled water should be used for drinking, making ice, brushing teeth, washing dishes, bathing, and food preparation until notified by your Water Supplier or Bureau of Public Health that the water has returned to a safe condition.

## BOILING THE WATER KILLS DISEASE-CAUSING MICRO ORGANISMS PRESENT IN THE WATER.

The "flat" taste of boiled water can be improved by pouring it back-and-forth between two clean containers (a process known as aeration), by allowing it to stand a few hours, or by adding a small pinch of salt for each quart of boiled water.

## HOW WILL I KNOW WHEN THE WATER IS SAFE TO DRINK AGAIN?

Your Water Supplier or Bureau of Public Health will inform you after the water is tested and the results indicate the water supply is safe to consume again. At that time, you will no longer need to boil your water. You will be notified through the local TV, radio, and/or print media; or you can call the Elkins Drinking Water Bulletin Board at 304-637-3582 for current information.

## FAQ's

- Q: Can I boil water in the microwave?**
- A: Tap water can be boiled in the microwave in a microwave-safe container, provided the water reaches a full rolling boil for 1 minute.
- Q: Do I need to boil tap water used to make beverages?**
- A: YES. Boil all tap water used to make coffee, tea, mixed drinks, Kool-Aid, and all other beverages made with water. All tap water used for ice should be boiled as well.
- Q: Should I boil the tap water I use to make baby formula?**
- A: YES. Only use boiled water or bottled water for mixing baby formula.
- Q: Can I use bottled water in the place of boiled water?**
- A: YES. Bottled water can be used in all situations where boiled tap water is recommended.
- Q: Can I use water from my neighbor's well or spring?**
- A: NO. There is no way to know if that water is safe unless it is routinely tested by a Water Authority.
- Q: Do I still have to boil water if I have a water treatment device?**
- A: YES. Water treatment devices are designed to improve water taste, odor, and/or chemical quality; they will not remove harmful organisms from the water.

