

BOIL ORDER

What is a Boil Order?

A boil order is a notification made by the water system operator announcing that certain areas of the water supply are or might be contaminated with bacteria. This order advises people to boil the contaminated water prior to using it in order to make it safe for drinking (or purchase commercially bottled water). Public notification is made so users of the affected system may receive knowledge of the contamination. **If there is no way to boil water or provide approved alternative sources, operations must cease.**

What Is Potable Water?

Potable water is water that is safe to drink and use for food preparation.

IF SUITABLE AMOUNTS OF POTABLE WATER ARE NOT AVAILABLE, OR IF THE WATER IS SHUT OFF, THE ESTABLISHMENT MUST CEASE OPERATIONS.

During the Boil Order:

To operate a food facility during a boil order, potable water must be provided. If this is not possible, tap water may be used if brought to a rolling boil and boiled for 1 minute.

Potable water should be used to:

- Make coffee, tea, or other beverages
- Wash hands
- Wash produce
- Make ice
- Wash dishes or clean food contact surfaces
- Make sanitizer solution
- Cook and prepare all foods

Direct plumbed kitchen equipment should NOT be used, including:

- Handwashing sinks
- Coffee/tea machines
- Soda/beverage machines, guns
- On-site ice machines

Alternative procedures to minimize water use:

- Use commercially bottled drinks
- Use single-service items
- Use pre-packaged foods when possible
- Restrict menus/hours of operation
- Use commercially packaged ice

After the boil order:

- Run all water lines for one minute to flush contaminated water from the system, including all soda machine taps.
- Clean and sanitize all fixtures, sinks, and equipment connected to water lines.
- Run the dishwasher empty through three complete cycles before use.
- Discard all ice in the ice machines, clean and sanitize the inside surfaces, run the ice through a cycle again, discard ice.
- Flush all water lines and clean all filters, screens and strainers.



118 Cross Creek Blvd.

Salem IL 62864

(618)548-3878

www.marioncountyhealthdept.org