

Boil Water Advisory Guidelines

Jefferson County Health Department

Residential Guidelines

The following are guidelines for the public safety in their homes

Boiling Method:

Boil water until it comes to a rolling boil at 212°F for at least 5 minutes.

By boiling the water at such high temperatures for an extended period of time it purifies the water.

Boiled water should be used for:

- Drinking
- Preparing food
- Beverages
- Ice
- Washing fruits and vegetables
- Washing Dishes in a Sink
- Brushing teeth
- Preparing infant bottles
- Toddler and infant bathes

It is not necessary to boil tap water used for other household purposes such as showering, laundry, bathing. Adults, teens, and older children can wash, bathe, or shower; however they should avoid swallowing the water.

Water treatment devices such as the following should NOT be used in place of the boil water method:

- Carbon filters
- Taste and odor filters
- Chemical quality filters

Precautionary measures after boil water advisories have been lifted:

- Flush the faucets for at least 2 minutes and clean faucet screens.
- Run ice machines through one cycle of ice production and discard the ice. Then clean and sanitize the bin.

Examples of equipment used to boil water:

- Turkey Fryers (boils water in about 30 minutes)
- Hot Plates
- Propane camping stoves
- Electric & Gas Stoves

**** If you have any questions regarding boil water advisories please contact the Jefferson County Health Department or your local water department.**

