

Boil Order or Interrupted Water Service

(within a food establishment)

Food facilities are expected to either cease operations until the boil order has been lifted or obtain an alternate supply of potable water and/or ice, plus implement satisfactory methods for hand washing, food preparation, equipment cleaning and sanitation.

To continue operating under "boil water" orders or interrupted water service from municipal water supplies, all retail food service establishments (restaurants) must secure and use potable water from an approved source (e.g., from tank trucks or bottled potable water) for all water usage. This includes for the following uses:

These water sources are affected:

1. Coffee, tea, other beverages made in the food establishment
2. Ice
3. Washing produce or thawing frozen foods
4. Employee hand washing
5. Washing all dishes and cooking utensils
6. All water used in 3-compartment sinks
7. All water for sanitizing solutions



Any changes or modifications to procedures used to wash, rinse, and sanitizing utensils should be discussed with SCDPH personnel prior to instituting. Equipment plumbed directly into the water system such as direct feed coffee urns, ice machines that manufacture ice on site, and post-mix soda or beverage machines may not be used during the boil order.

If it is not possible to obtain potable water from tank trucks or bottled potable water and if a heat source is available, boil the water vigorously (water should be bubbling and rolling) for one minute.

To minimize water usage, consider the following:

1. Commercially-packaged ice may be substituted for ice made on-site.
2. Single-service items or disposable utensils may be substituted for reusable dishes and utensils.
3. Pre-prepared food from approved sources may be used in place of complex preparations on-site.
4. Restrict menu choices or hours of operation.
5. Portable toilets may be made available for sanitary purposes.
6. Restrooms should be posted, advising that the water is not for potable use.

DURING ~

After "boil water" order is lifted or water service resumes, follow these precautions:

1. Run all water lines for one minute to flush contaminated water from the system. This includes each fill point for post-mix soda and beverage machines.
2. Clean and sanitize all fixtures, sinks, and equipment connected to water lines.
3. Run your dishwasher empty through three complete cycles to flush the water lines and assure that the dishwasher is cleaned internally before washing equipment and utensils in it.
4. Discard all ice in ice machines; clean and sanitize (1 Tbs. of bleach per gallon of potable water) the interior surfaces; run the ice through three cycles; and discard ice with each cycle.
5. Replace all ice machine filters and beverage dispenser filters and flush all water lines for 10 to 15 minutes.

AFTER ~

Sangamon County Department of Public Health, Department of Environmental Health
2833 South Grand Avenue East
Springfield, IL 62703
(217) 535-3145 after hours: (217) 753-6666

If a temporary hand washing station is needed, create the following...

Approximately 5 Gallons of Water

