



FOOD FACILITY REQUIREMENTS FOR OPERATING DURING A BOIL WATER ADVISORY

As a food facility owner, a **Boil Water Advisory** means that you need to take the following actions immediately to prevent possible illnesses from drinking contaminated water.

- Turn off or disconnect the water supply to all machines that use the affected water. This includes:
 - Ice machines – empty the contents and sanitize before returning to use when the order is lifted. Use bagged ice packaged outside of the affected area or prior to the boil water notice.
 - Water dispensers and drinking fountains, use bottled water.
 - Drink dispensers, use bottled or canned beverages.
 - Coffee makers
- Do not wash produce using tap water. Use packaged prewashed produce or use bottled or boiled, cooled water to wash produce.
- Always use a germicidal soap for hand washing and dry thoroughly before handling food items. Use a commercial hand sanitizing solution that requires not rinse following proper handwashing.
- Do not drink, or serve to customers, water directly from the tap. Serve only bottled water.
- Do not add tap water to food items unless the water has been boiled, or use bottled water for food preparation.
- Be certain that all cooking and serving utensils are properly washed and sanitized before use. Properly operating commercial dish washing machines using heat or chemical disinfection are satisfactory for utensil cleaning.

Alternatives include serving bottled water or canned/bottled beverages and use of disposable utensils.

Filtration is **not** effective in lieu of boiling or using bottled water. Water bottled at water vending machine in the affected area must be boiled prior to use.

Coffee machines do **not** heat water to the required “boil for one minute” criteria.

When the order is lifted, it will be necessary for you to disconnect and purge all water lines connected to beverage service equipment and ice machines before returning them to use. Further information on when a **Boil Water Advisory** is lifted and what actions need to be taken will be posted on the Ventura County Environmental Health Division website under Disaster Preparedness at:

<http://vcrma.org/divisions/environmental-health>