



Boil Water Notice

Frequently asked questions

How should I boil water and for how long?

Please boil all drinking/cooking water for at least 1 minute before you use it.

Electric jugs with a cut-off switch can be used as long as they are full, but you must boil the water twice. Each time allow the water to come to boil and wait for it to switch off — do not hold the switch down to increase the boiling time.

Water can also be placed in a clean metal pan and brought to a rolling boil for one minute. Boiled water should be covered and allowed to cool in the same container. The taste will improve if allowed to stand for a few hours before use.

If you are unable to boil your water you can treat tap water by adding 1 teaspoon of household bleach per 10 litres of water and leave for 30 minutes. Water purification tablets may also be used to disinfect tap water (make sure you follow manufacturer's instructions.)

Please continue to boil water until you are advised that the boil water notice has been lifted.

When should I use boiled water?

- ✓ **Cooking food** – non-boiled water can only be used in foods that will be thoroughly cooked
- ✓ **Washing uncooked food** - use cooled boiled water for any foods that will not be cooked (such as for washing fruits and vegetables)
- ✓ **Ice** use cooled boiled water
- ✓ **Distilled water or water distillers** most can be used safely, always check with the manufacturer
- ✓ **Water filters/coolers** Most filters/coolers will not remove the contamination and should not be used.
- ✓ **Washing dishes in the dishwasher** -dishes can be washed in the dishwasher on the hottest wash and air-dried. Do not stack dishes wet, wait until completely dry.
- ✓ **Washing dishes by hand** - wash the dishes using a decent amount of dishwashing liquid. Rinse using boiled water and allow to air-dry completely.
- ✓ **Washing Hands** Make sure hands are washed thoroughly. Dry using single-use towels or by air-drying.

What should I do about feeding my baby?

If breastfeeding, continue as usual. If you are using baby formula, prepare using bottled or cooled, boiled water. Wash and sterilise bottles and teats by boiling or microwaving.

I have already drunk the water. Will I get sick?

Babies, young children, the elderly and people who have compromised immune systems are more at risk of illness.

If you become unwell with diarrhoea, vomiting and/or a fever please call the health centre on 03- 319 3500 or Healthline on 0800 611 116.

Remember there are many things that can cause these symptoms. Anyone who is unwell should call the health centre before visiting to get their advice and reduce the risk of unwell people passing illnesses on to others.

Can my pet(s) drink the water?

Pets and livestock can usually drink untreated water. If your pet is unwell, has vomiting and diarrhoea, contact your veterinarian.

Will council be providing potable water?

Council will support schools, childcare and health centres as needed. Community members do not need to buy water as long as they are able to boil or treat water.

Who makes the decision about what schools have to do?

Children should be encouraged to take boiled water to school. Schools should be able to operate relatively normally. The schools board of trustees can make the call to close a school if necessary.

What do food-handling/preparation hospitality businesses need to do?

All food businesses should have plans in place for situations like this.

If any businesses are unsure about what the notice means for them they should contact Lisa Shaw, Environmental Health Officer and Food Safety Consultant, Food and Health Standards (2006) Ltd. Email: l.shaw@foodandhealth.co.nz | Phone: 03 365 1667 | Mob: 027 224 6573.

If you have more questions:

Email us on: kdc@kaikoura.govt.nz

Phone us on: 03 319 5026