

DO NOT USE ADVISORY

Frequently Asked Questions



DO NOT USE TAP WATER FOR ANY PURPOSE DURING A “DO NOT USE ADVISORY”

GENERAL

1. What is a “Do Not Use Advisory”?

A “Do Not Use Advisory” is a notification issued by your local community to alert the community to not use the tap water for any purpose. This advisory is typically used only in cases of known microbial, chemical, or radiological contamination when any contact can be dangerous.

2. Can I boil my water to make it safe to drink for a Do Not Use Advisory?

NO. Because of the nature of the water contamination, boiling your water will not make it safe to drink. Use only bottled water for drinking.

3. Can I disinfect my water to make it safe to drink?

No. Because of the nature of the water contamination, disinfecting your water will not make it safe to drink. Use only bottled water for drinking.

4. Should I use bottled water?

Yes. Bottled water is the only water that is safe to drink at this time until further notice.

5. What should I do if I already used the water?

If you are concerned about your health or the health of a family member, contact your healthcare provider.

6. Where can I get more information?

- www.cdc.gov (Personal Water Use, Hygiene and Sanitation, A Guide to Water Filters)
- EPA Safe Drinking Water Hotline 1-800-4264791

HYGIENE

7. Can I use tap water to wash my hands?

No. Do not use the tap water to wash your hands.

8. Can I use tap water to brush my teeth?

No. Use bottled water to brush your teeth.

CHILDREN

9. What should I do about feeding my baby during a Do Not Use Advisory?

Breastfeeding is best. Continue to breastfeed. If breastfeeding is not an option:

- Use ready-to-use baby formula, if possible.
- Prepare powdered or concentrated baby formula with bottled water.
- Wash and sterilize bottles and nipples with bottled water before use.
- If you cannot sterilize bottles, try to use single-serve, ready-to-feed bottles.

FOOD & DRINK

10. Can I use my coffee maker, ice machine, water dispenser, or soda dispenser?

No. Do not use water from any appliance connected to your water lines. This includes the water and ice dispensers in your refrigerator/freezer and dishwasher. If your appliance is not connected to your water line (e.g., a free standing coffee maker), you can use it, but use bottled water in place of tap water. When the advisory is lifted, consult the owner's manual to find out how to flush and sanitize appliances.

11. Can I use ice from my refrigerator/freezer?

No. Do not use ice from ice trays, ice dispensers, or ice makers.

12. Can I use tap water to cook food (such as pasta, rice, noodles, etc.)?

No. Until you receive updated instruction from local officials, only bottled water should be used.

13. What should I do about preparing food and beverages? How should I wash fruit, vegetables, and food preparation surfaces?

- Wash fruits and vegetables with bottled water.
- Prepare drinks, such as coffee, tea, and lemonade with bottled water.
- Wash food preparation surfaces with bottled water.

14. How do I wash dishes during a Do Not Use Advisory?

Use disposable plates, cups, and utensils, if possible. If you do not have disposable dishes, wash dishes by hand using only bottled water and dish soap.

MISCELLANEOUS

15. Do I need to worry about my fish or aquatic pets (e.g., reptiles, frogs)?

Contact your local pet store or veterinarian for more advice.