

Drinking Water

During storm events, water purification systems may not be functioning fully. Safe water for drinking, cooking, and personal hygiene includes bottled, boiled, or treated water. Your state, local, or tribal health department can make specific recommendations for boiling or treating water in your area. Here are some general rules concerning water for drinking, cooking, and personal hygiene.

Remember:

- If there is doubt about the safety of your water, use the following table to determine proper domestic uses.

Activities that <u>do</u> require boiled water:	Activities that <u>do not</u> require boiled water:
Drinking	Showering
Washing food served without cooking/baking	Tub Bathing
Adding water to food without cooking/baking	Dish washing or rinsing*
Ice Making	Laundering
Cleaning food contact surfaces	General cleaning, mopping
Gargling	Hand washing
Eye washing	Pet watering
Taking water with medications	Pet bathing
Tooth brushing	Plant water/irrigation

*Cleaned dishes and utensils should be rinsed in water that contains 1 tablespoon of household bleach per gallon of water (100-200 ppm chlorine) and allowed to air dry before use.

- Home treatment devices that do not boil or chemically disinfect the water with acceptable disinfectants are not considered reliable alternatives to boiling the water.
- If you use bottled water, be sure it came from a safe source. If you do not know that the water came from a safe source, you should boil or treat it before you use it. Use only bottled, boiled, or treated water until your supply is tested and found safe.
- Boiling water, when practical, is the preferred way to kill harmful bacteria and parasites. Bringing water to a rolling boil for 1 minute will kill harmful organisms.
- If you don't have clean, safe, bottled water and if boiling is not possible, you often can make water safer to drink as a last resort by using a disinfectant, such as unscented household chlorine bleach, iodine, or chlorine dioxide tablets. These can kill most harmful organisms, though not all. EPA provides guidance for disinfection of small quantities of drinking water at the following website: <http://water.epa.gov/drink/emmerprep/emergencydisinfection.cfm>.
- Chemical disinfection is not able to remove all types of contamination.