
During A Boil Water Advisory

Childcare Centers – Checklist



When a childcare center is notified of a boil water advisory, take the following actions:

1. DRINKING WATER

- Use bottled water. Bottled water is the best option for drinking if it is available.
- Boil water if bottled water is not available.
 - Bring water to a rolling boil for one minute.
 - Let cool for 15 minutes before drinking.
 - Store the cooled water in a clean, sanitized container with a cover.
- Use bottled or boiled water for:
 - Drinking
 - Washing fruits and vegetables
 - Preparing food and baby formula
 - Making ice
 - Animals
- Shut off and cover drinking fountains.
- Post signs at drinking fountains, in the kitchen, and bathrooms stating: “Do Not Drink Water”.

2. FOOD PREPARATION AND COOKING

- Childcare centers with licensed kitchens should immediately implement the Emergency Action Plan for Retail Food Establishments available at: www.oakgov.com/health
 - Note: If you do not have a licensed kitchen, it is recommended that the Emergency Action Plan for Retail Food Establishments still be referenced for guidance on food preparation and cooking.
- Discard all ice or drinks made with tap water.
- Discard ready-to-eat food that was prepared with potentially unsafe water prior to the advisory (e.g., coffee, juice, formula, smoothies, gelatins, and popsicles).
- Limit menu to items that require no or little water to prepare.
- Use bottled or boiled water for:
 - Food and beverage preparation activities
 - Washing of fruits and vegetables
 - Mixing beverages
- Use disposable plates, cups, and utensils, if possible.

3. CLEANING AND SANITIZING

In the Facility

- Discontinue all on-site water play or swimming activities.
- Use bottled water or boiled water with bleach (or an equivalent) to clean surfaces.

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Toy Washing & Laundry

- Use bottled water or boiled water to clean washable toys and surfaces.
- Use a hot water rinse cycle and heat-dried on the highest heat setting for 30 minutes to wash:
 - Cloth toys
 - Dress up clothes
 - Laundry

Dishwashing

If you do not have disposable plates, cups, and utensils, follow these instructions to wash dishes by hand:

- Wash and rinse the dishes as normally done using hot water.
- In a separate basin, add 1 teaspoon of unscented household liquid bleach for each gallon of warm water. The bleach label should say that it contains 8.25% of sodium hypochlorite.
- Soak the rinsed dishes in the sanitizer solution for at least 1 minute.
- Let the dishes air dry completely before using again.

4. HANDWASHING & HYGIENE

- Vigorous handwashing for at least 20 seconds with soap and tap water is safe during a boil water advisory.
- Observe children handwashing to ensure soap use and vigorous handwashing occur.
- If soap is not available, use an alcohol-based hand rub to clean hands.
- If washing your hands to prepare food, use boiled (then cooled) water, disinfected water, or bottled water with handwashing soap. Follow up with hand sanitizer approved (compliant with) the FDA Food Code.
- Use bottled or boiled water for brushing teeth.
- Use bottled or boiled water for washing cuts, scrapes, or wounds.
- Wear disposable gloves to change diapers.
 - Wash hands with soap and water immediately afterwards.
 - When you are done washing and drying your hands, use an alcohol based hand-sanitizer and let hands air dry.



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