

Water shortage

Under the Regulation respecting the quality of drinking water, the operator of a drinking water distribution system must regularly monitor the quality of the water to ensure that it is fit for consumption and is not a health hazard.

Issuance of a notice to boil water :

- 📍 If bacteriological analyses of the water reveal's the presence of fecal coli form bacteria or Escherichia coli bacteria, the person in charge of the distribution system must, as soon as he or she is informed thereof, notify users that the water is unfit for consumption and that it must be vigorously **boiled for at least one minute before drinking.**

Restrictions while a notice to boil water is in effect :

While a notice to boil water is in effect, changes must be made in the ordinary use and consumption of tapwater for food preparation, personal hygiene and domestic use. In general, the guidelines below should be followed while a notice to boil water is in effect:

- 👉 **Use boiled or bottled water for the following :**
 - 💧 preparing beverages such as juices, hot beverages (tea, coffee, etc.)
 - 💧 preparing baby bottles and baby food
 - 💧 washing fruits and vegetables to be eaten raw
 - 💧 making ice cubes
 - 💧 preparing dishes and food for cooking
 - 💧 for brushing the teeth and rinsing the mouth
- 👉 **Personal hygiene**
 - 💧 when taking a shower or a bath, take special care to avoid swallowing water.
 - 💧 hand wash infants (sponge baths, face cloths) to prevent them from swallowing water or putting wet toys in their mouth.
- 👉 **Water storage**
 - 💧 Boiled water stored in sterilized, air-tight containers will usually keep for up to **three days in the refrigerator or for 24 hours at room temperature.**

End to the notice to boil water :

- 👉 As soon as the notice to boil water is lifted, the following precautions are recommended before consuming the water; let all cold water taps **run for a minute** or until the water is cold.