



Darke County General Health District

300 Garst Avenue, Greenville, Ohio 45331

(937)548-4196 Fax: (937)548-9654

www.darkecountyhealth.org

Reacting to a Water Interruption and Boil Advisory

A food establishment is required to have a large supply of safe, clean (potable) water in order to operate in accordance with the Ohio Uniform Food Safety Code. Potable water is used for handwashing, warewashing, washing produce, food preparation, thawing, cooking and cleaning of equipment, and beverage/ ice dispensing.

Whether an operation is connected to city water or a private water source, a potable water interruption may occur. A potable water interruption is when there is a disruption or contamination of the water supply used in the potable water. Examples would include but are not limited to the following: a scheduled maintenance on plumbing systems, water line break, fire department demands, or a boil advisory. A boil advisory is a public health order given to consumers by authorities when a community's drinking water is, or could be, contaminated by pathogens.

During a potable water interruption, a food facility shall be considering the operations dependency on water, the anticipated duration of the water interruption, advance contingency planning, and the availability of alternate supplies of potable water, single-service articles, single-use kitchenware and other resources to determine what action to take. **The facility shall use a safe, clean (potable) supply of water during the entire duration of the interruption.**

A facility may remain open if appropriate actions are taken by the operator to assure the safety of the food, the cleanliness of utensils and equipment, and the personal hygiene of employees by using one for more the following alternatives:

1. Modify the menu to serve only commercially prepared, pre-packaged items that require no food preparation. Examples include packaged pop, chips, candy, nuts, etc.
2. Boil the current water supply on site for at least one minute to kill any pathogens.
3. Obtain potable water through an alternate approved source. This would include:
 - a. Commercially bottled water
 - b. Bulk water containers filled from an approved source
 - c. Water from an approved potable water hauler registered in Darke County
 - d. Piping, tubing, or hoses connected to an adjacent approved source

If the facility does not have the necessary resources to safely maintain operations during an interruption of water service, it will be required to temporarily close.



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Below you can find alternative procedures to follow for the daily activities completed with potable water. Please keep in mind these procedures shall continue for the entire duration of the potable water interruption. Again if you are not able to maintain these methods, you must choose to cease that activity or CLOSE.

Activity	Alternate Procedure(s)
Thawing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Thaw in refrigeration or as a part of the cooking process. • DO NOT thaw products in a prep sink using contaminated water
Washing Produce	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Obtain and use pre-washed packaged produce • Use only produce washed prior to interruption • Use canned and/or frozen produce • Wash fresh produce with potable water • DISCARD produce washed within the interruption period
Spraying Produce	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Use an alternative water source • TURN OFF misting devices
Preparing and Cooking Food	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Use only food that was prepared prior to the interruption • Prepare foods using an alternative approved source • DISCARD items prepared during the interruption period
Making Ice	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Use only ice prepared prior to the interruption • Purchase commercially packaged potable ice • DISCARD ice prepared during interruption period • TURN OFF ice machines
Using Drink Machines Connected to a Water Line	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Purchase commercially packaged beverages • TURN OFF all drink machines
Handwashing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Set up a temporary hand washing sink using a beverage dispensing unit with a supply of potable water 100F or above. • DO NOT use hand sinks connected to the interrupted water supply
Warewashing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Boil water on site to place into each compartment. Temperature regulations for each compartment still apply. • Use an alternative potable water supply • DO NOT use sink connected to the interrupted water supply
Using Dip Wells	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Store utensils in food with handles extending out of the food • TURN OFF all dipper wells
Using Garbage Disposal	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dispose of garbage in proper containers with other refuse or in composting facility • DO NOT use garbage disposal
Employee Restrooms	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Utilize waterless toilets (porta-johns) • Use non-potable water
Public Restrooms	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Close the facilities • Provide water from an alternative source • Utilize waterless toilets