

When to Use Specific Public Health Orders

Type of Order	When is the Order Issued?	What to do	Examples of What to do	Procedures for Food Establishments
Boil Water	Microbiological contamination when there is no identified risk due to inhalation, skin irritation, or flammability	<p>Boil water at a rolling boil for 1 minute before using for any human consumption¹ purpose.</p> <p>Use bottled water or water from an alternative source.</p> <p>Discard ice⁴.</p> <p>You may bathe with this water but when bathing do not swallow water (sponge bathe kids).</p> <p>You may flush toilets.</p>	<p>Boil your water or if you cannot boil use bottled water, or water from an alternate source for the following human consumption purposes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Brushing teeth • Washing hands • Washing cuts, bruises, etc • Cooking • Ice making • Washing vegetables • Washing eating/cooking utensils • Pets (water, food, bathe) 	<p>Food establishments must follow MA DPH procedures and the direction of their local board of health (LBH).</p> <p>See pg. 18 of the DPH guide² for procedures to follow during a <i>Boil Order</i>.</p> <p>LBH may be more stringent than the DPH guide.</p>
Do Not Drink	Chemical or radiological contamination when there is no identified risk due to inhalation, skin irritation or flammability. Bacteria contamination when boiling or disinfection is not available or practical.	<p>Do not use water for human consumption¹ purposes.</p> <p>Use bottled water from an alternative source.</p> <p>Discard ice⁴.</p> <p>You may bathe with this water but when bathing do not swallow the water (sponge bathe kids).</p> <p>You may flush toilets.</p>	<p>Use bottled water or water from an alternate source for the following human consumption purposes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Brushing teeth • Washing hands • Washing cuts, bruises, etc • Cooking • Ice making • Washing vegetables • Washing eating/cooking utensils • Pets (water, food, bathe) 	<p>Food establishments must follow the DPH guide and the directions of their LBH.</p> <p>See pg. 15 of the DPH guide² for procedures to follow during a <i>water interruption</i> incident.</p> <p>LBH may be more stringent than the DPH guide.</p>
Do Not Use	Chemical or radiological or unknown contamination when there is a risk from inhalation, skin irritation, or flammability.	<p>Do not use the water for any purpose.</p> <p>Use bottled water or water from an alternate source.</p> <p>Discard ice⁴.</p> <p>Do not flush toilets or other units until MassDEP has determined it is safe to do so.</p>	<p>Use bottled water or an alternate source for all human consumption purposes including showering.</p> <hr/> <p>Discard any products prepared with the water collected during the period of concern, e.g., baby formulas, foods, ice cubes, etc.</p> <hr/> <p>Do not use the shower or flush toilets until approved to do so by MassDEP. <i>Showering and flushing may present a risk from inhalation.</i></p> <hr/> <p>When or if flushing is allowed or required by MassDEP flush all pipes and units e.g. hot and cold water taps, toilets, humidifiers, dishwashers, washing machines, etc³.</p>	<p>Food establishments must follow the DPH guide and the directions of their LBH.</p> <p>See pg. 15 of the DPH guide² for procedures to follow during a <i>water interruption</i> incident.</p> <p>LBH may be more stringent than the DPH guide.</p>

¹ On 2/26/88, the US District Court settled the US vs. Midway Heights case in part by claiming "human consumption includes drinking, bathing, showering, cooking, dishwashing, and maintaining oral hygiene."

² For DPH's guide visit http://www.mass.gov/?pageID=eohhs2terminal&L=6&L0=Home&L1=Provider&L2=Guidance+for+Businesses&L3=Food+Safety&L4=Retail+Food&L5=Policies+and+Guidelines&sid=Feohhs2&b=terminalcontent&f=dph_environmental_foodsafety_p_emergency_plans&csid=Feohhs2

³ For more information read MassDEP's flushing fact sheet at <http://www.mass.gov/dep/water/laws/policies.htm#dwguid>

⁴ Freezing does not kill bacteria. Discard ice made during the period in question.