

# COLES COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT

Gloria Spear  
Administrator

Kim Ross  
Director of Environmental Health

Lisa Sorensen  
Director of Nursing

Paul Howarth  
Chief Financial Officer

825 EIGHTEENTH STREET  
CHARLESTON, ILLINOIS 61920

Telephone:  
(217) 348-0530

(217)348-5321 Nursing Fax  
(217)348-5322 Environmental Health Fax

www.colesco.illinois.gov

## GUIDELINES FOR RESIDENTIAL WATER USE DURING BOIL WATER ORDERS

During a boil water order, residential users of affected public water supplies should take the following measures to protect themselves from consuming potentially contaminated water:

1. Bottled water should be used for drinking, cooking, washing fresh fruits/vegetables, hand washing and tooth brushing.
2. The affected tap water should be used for these purposes **only** after it has been brought to a **rolling boil for 3 minutes. DO NOT BOIL THE WATER FOR LONGER TIMES.** Excessive boiling may concentrate any chemical contaminants, raising their concentrations to harmful levels.
3. The affected water may be used for dish washing if a dish washing machine is used. If dishes are hand washed, boiled or bottled water should be used. The affected tap water may be used if the clean dishes are immersed for at least one minute in a sink of water to which one full tablespoon of regular household bleach has been added.
4. The affected tap water may be used for bathing and/or showering.
5. The affected water may be used for household cleaning.

**NOTE: If the tap water is cloudy and/or contains particles,  
bottled water should be used.**

After the "boil water" order is lifted or water service resumes, these precautionary measures should be followed:

1. Flush the building water lines and clean faucet screens.
2. Purge the water-using fixtures and appliances of standing water and ice such as refrigerator ice makers and coffee makers.