

GRAYSON COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT



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Guidance for Resuming Service at Retail Food Establishments after a Boil Order

Public water systems issue Boil Water notices to notify their users when the drinking water is not safe to consume. A boil water notice is issued when there is a coliform bacteria violation; when the water turbidity is over 5.0 NTU; when the water pressure is less than 20 PSI; or when there is a waterborne disease outbreak.

The following procedures shall be conducted by retail food establishments following a “boil order” in order to resume food service to the public.

Cold Water Faucets:

- Run tap water for two minutes, before drinking or using for food preparation. If you have a single-lever faucet, set it to run the cold water first.
- If public drinking water fountains are available, they shall be flushed for at least five minutes.

Hot Water Faucets:

- To clear hot-water pipes and water heater of untreated water, change all faucets to hot water and flush for a minimum of 15 minutes for a typical household 40-gallon hot-water tank, 30 minutes for an 80-gallon hot water tank or larger. Flush instant hot water systems for two minutes. Hot water is then safe to use for washing hands, and for hand-washing of dishes, pots and pans, etc.

Ice Making

- Discard existing ice and the first batch of ice made after the boil order is lifted.

Mechanical Ware Washing:

- After flushing hot water pipes and the water heater, run the mechanical ware washer empty one time.

Fountain Drink Machines:

- Flush all lines according to manufacturer’s instructions.

Sanitizing Equipment:

- Sanitize all equipment with water line connections according to the manufacturer’s directions (this should be done after following the above guidelines on system flushing), this includes, but is not limited to: fountain drink dispensers, ice machines, sinks, steam tables, and mechanical ware washers.

Additional questions or concerns can be directed to the Grayson County Health Department (903) 465-2878