



Center for Drinking Water Quality

Cleaning and sanitizing procedures for after a Boil Water Advisory has been lifted for food establishments

When the Rhode Island Department of Health (RIDOH) lifts a boil water advisory, food establishments must follow these steps.

Ice machines

Ice machines must be cleaned and sanitized with a solution of one teaspoon of bleach to one gallon of water before use. Follow the manufacturer's suggested sanitizing procedures in the operator's manual. At minimum, a food establishment must:

- Run the ice machine for 24 hours and throw away the ice that is made during the 24 hours.
- Wash and sanitize the area around and in the ice collection bin.

All external filtering devices associated with ice machines must be sanitized. Filter cartridges must also be changed.

Water treatment units

Replace any water treatment filter cartridges.

Soda dispensers

Follow the manufacturer's suggested sanitizing procedures in the operator's manual or contact the company that installed the dispenser(s) to have them properly cleaned and sanitized.

Vending machines

Contact the company that installed the vending machine to have the machine properly cleaned and sanitized. This only applies to vending machines that are connected to the water system and are used to make items like cold beverages.

Vegetable and fish sprays

In-place spray units and units which periodically spray water on products to maintain freshness must be cleaned and sanitized prior to use. A 50 to 100 parts per million (ppm) chlorine solution or other approved sanitizer should be flushed through the lines for at least 60 seconds.

Drinking fountains

All water cooling tanks must be completely flushed out prior to use. Run the drinking fountain for at least 10 minutes to completely flush the lines.

Faucets/Taps

Any faucets or taps must be run for 10 minutes to ensure that any contamination that may be present is removed.

Call the Center for Drinking Water Quality main line at 401-222-6867, Monday – Friday, 8:30 a.m. – 4 p.m. if you have any questions. After hours and on weekends, call RIDOH's emergency line at 401-276-8046.