



Center for Drinking Water Quality

Cleaning and sanitizing procedures for after a Boil Water Notice has been lifted for healthcare facilities, schools, and businesses

When the Rhode Island Department of Health (RIDOH) lifts a boil water notice, healthcare facilities, schools, and non-food-related businesses should follow these recommendations to help ensure drinking water is safe.

Refrigerators with water dispensers or ice makers

Before use, water dispensers and ice machines must be cleaned and sanitized with a solution of one teaspoon of bleach to one gallon of water. Follow the manufacturer's suggested sanitizing procedures in the operator's manual. At minimum, a facility, school, or business should:

- Run the water dispenser for 3 to 5 minutes to get any contaminated water out of the lines.
- Run the ice maker for at least 30 minutes.
- Throw away the first batch of ice that the refrigerator makes.
- Wash and sanitize the area around and in the ice collection bin.

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

Water treatment units

Replace any water treatment filter cartridges.

Faucets/Taps

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

Reminder: Employees should use cold water for cooking and drinking instead of water that has been sitting in a hot water tank.

Eye-Wash stations>Showers

Any emergency eye-wash stations that have not been used while the boil water notice was in place should 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.