



Water Contaminated with Bacteria

If recent tests have indicated the possible presence of bacteria in your drinking water, follow the precautions below:

Drinking Water

There are two simple and effective methods to treat drinking water for microbiological contaminants (bacteria):

- 1. Boil:** Bring the water to a rolling boil for at least one minute. Laboratory data show this is adequate to make the water safe for drinking.
- 2. Disinfect:** Disinfectant tablets obtained from a wilderness store or pharmacy may be used. In an emergency, liquid chlorine bleach such as Clorox® or Purex® can be used at a dose of 8 drops (or 1 teaspoon) of bleach to each gallon of water. (*Careful measurement with a clean dropper or other accurate measuring device is required when using liquid chlorine bleach.*) Let stand for at least 30 minutes before use. Read the label to see that the bleach has 5-6% available chlorine.

Washing Dishes

Use disposable tableware if possible. If not, wash dishes normally and rinse in a solution of 1 teaspoon of bleach per gallon of warm water, submerge for at least 5 minutes, then allow them to air dry. Gloves should be worn to minimize any skin irritation.

Brushing Teeth

Only disinfected or boiled water should be used for brushing your teeth.

Bathing

Give young children sponge baths to prevent swallowing tap water. Older children and adults should avoid swallowing water while showering.

Ice

Do not use ice unless it is made with boiled or disinfected water. Freezing does not kill bacteria or other microorganisms.

Washing fruit/vegetables

Use disinfected or boiled water to wash fruits/vegetables that are eaten raw.

Hand Washing

Only boiled or disinfected water should be used for hand washing.

Cooking

Bring water to a rolling boil for 1 minute before adding food.

Infants

Use only prepared canned baby formula that does not require added water. Do not prepare powdered formula with contaminated water.

Houseplants and Gardens

Water may be used for household plants and gardens, except where it directly contacts edible produce such as strawberries or tomatoes.

House Pets

Follow the same precautions as for people. Provide pets with boiled or bottled water, and do not expose fish or other aquatic organisms to contaminated water.