

Boil Water Advisory: Think Before You Drink

(NAPSA)—The power goes out. There is construction in your neighborhood. A flood strikes. A water main cracks. Each of these can cause a disruption in the flow of water to your home. This disruption can affect the quality of your water for drinking, cooking and household chores. In these instances, Boil Water Advisories are issued to ensure consumers take proper precautions to make sure water is safe to drink. Boil Water Advisories do not mean that water is contaminated, but rather that it could be tainted.

The United States Environmental Protection Agency and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention work to ensure consumers only use water that has been properly disinfected for drinking, cooking, cleaning dishes or for personal hygiene during a Boil Water Advisory.

Follow these safety tips until the Boil Water Advisory has been lifted:

- **Drink bottled water.** Drink water from a source you know wasn't affected by a water main, such as water from a bottled water cooler or single-use bottled water. You may want to contact a local bottled water delivery service to quickly get access to three- or five-gallon jugs of water.

- **Boil water to disinfect.** This is the best method for ensuring drinking water is disinfected. Boil water for one minute, let it cool and store it in clean, covered containers. Boiling will kill any disease-causing organisms and provide you with clean, potable water.

- **Use household products.** If you cannot boil your water, an alternative is to use unscented liquid household chlorine bleach to sanitize the water. Simply add $\frac{1}{8}$ teaspoon (or eight drops) of unscented liquid household chlorine bleach for each gallon of



When a Boil Water Advisory is in effect, consumers should boil water before drinking and follow sanitizing procedures for drinking water systems.

water. Stir well and let it stand for 30 minutes before use.

- **Filter cloudy or murky water.** Look at the appearance of your water in a clear glass. If it looks discolored or murky, you may want to filter it and disinfect it. You can create a very basic filter using a clean cloth, a coffee filter or a paper towel. However, it will still need to be disinfected.

- **Call your Culligan Man.** If your neighborhood or community is under a Boil Water Advisory, make sure to follow sanitizing procedures for water softeners and drinking water systems installed in your home. You can find these procedures outlined in your Culligan product owner's manuals. It is also important to call your local Culligan Dealer. Your local Culligan Man can answer any questions about the quality and safety of your water, availability of bottled water services and what steps to take to address your home's water treatment system.

For more information, visit www.culligan.com, <http://water.epa.gov/drink/emmerprep/emergencydisinfection.cfm> and www.bt.cdc.gov/disasters/poweroutage/needtoknow.asp.