



COUNTY OF MONTEREY HEALTH DEPARTMENT

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Emergency Non-Potable Water Guidance

Handwashing

- You can use tap water and soap to wash hands during a do not drink.
- Be sure to scrub your hands with soap and water for at least 20 seconds. Then, rinse them well under running water.
- If soap and water are not available, use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer that contains at least 60% alcohol.

Bathing and showering

- Be careful not to swallow any water when bathing or showering.
- Use caution when bathing babies and young children. Consider giving them a sponge bath to reduce the chance of them swallowing water.

Brushing teeth

- Brush teeth with bottled water. Do not use tap water.
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Washing dishes

- If possible, use disposable plates, cups, and utensils
- Household dishwashers generally are safe to use if:
 - The water reaches a final rinse temperature of at least 150 degrees Fahrenheit (66°Celsius), or
 - The dishwater has a sanitizing cycle.
- [Sanitize](#) all baby bottles.
- To wash dishes by hand:
 - Wash and rinse the dishes as you normally would using hot water.
 - In a separate basin, add 1 teaspoon of unscented household liquid bleach for each gallon of warm water.
 - Soak the rinsed dishes in the water for at least one minute.
 - Let the dishes air dry completely before using again.

Laundry

- It is safe to wash clothes as usual.

Cleaning

- Clean washable toys and surfaces with:
 - Bottled water
 - Water that has been disinfected with bleach.

Caring for pets

- Pets can get sick from some of the same germs as people or spread germs to people. Give pets bottled water
- Do not use water from any appliance connected to your water line, such as ice and water from a refrigerator.

Caring for your garden and houseplants

- You can use tap water for household plants and gardens.