

Harris County

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# HCPHES

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Public Health & Environmental Services

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## **Recommendations for Disinfecting Unsafe Water**

Water may become unsafe to use as a result of contamination, flooding or low water pressure. Disinfect water used for drinking (including for your pets), cooking, brushing teeth, rinsing contact lenses, shaving and making ice.

To ensure the quality of your water is safe, use one of the following methods:

- Boiling. Boil water for two (2) minutes after it reaches a full rolling boil.
- Chlorine Bleach. Use only unscented liquid chlorine bleach. If water is clear, add 2 drops of bleach per quart of water (8 drops per gallon). If water is cloudy, add 4 drops of bleach per quart of water (16 drops per gallon). Mix well and let stand 30 minutes before using.
- Purification Tablets. These are available at drug stores or camping outlets. Follow the directions on the package. If tablets are over a year old, replace them or throw them away.
- Bottled water. Use only water from bottles that have a sealed top.

**Continue disinfecting the water until you are notified the water is safe!**