DRINKING WATER WARNING

City of Molalla Water System has high turbidity levels

BOIL YOUR WATER BEFORE USING

We routinely monitor your water for turbidity (cloudiness). This tells us whether we are effectively filtering the water supply. A water sample taken on 9/9/26 showed turbidity levels of 11 turbidity units. This is above the standard of 1-3 turbidity units. Because of these high levels of turbidity, there is an increased chance that the water may contain disease-causing organisms.

What should I do?

- **DO NOT DRINK THE WATER WITHOUT BOILING IT FIRST.** Bring all water to a boil, let it boil for one minute, and let it cool before using, or use bottled water. Boiled or bottled water should be used for drinking, making ice, washing dishes, brushing teeth, and food preparation until further notice.

- *Turbidity has no health effects. However, turbidity can interfere with disinfection and provide a medium for microbial growth. Turbidity may indicate the presence of disease causing organisms. These organisms include bacteria, viruses, and parasites, which can cause symptoms such as nausea, cramps, diarrhea, and associated headaches.* People with severely compromised immune systems, infants, and some elderly may be at increased risk. These people should seek advice about drinking water from their health care providers.

- The symptoms above are not caused only by organisms in drinking water. If you experience any of these symptoms and they persist, you may want to seek medical advice.

What happened? What is being done?

On 9/9/26 at approximately 4:00 am, public works received a report of a broken water main in the 1300 block of Meadowlark Pl. The increased flows from the main break caused increased water velocity in the system which stirred up the turbidity.

The water treatment plant in currently conducting enhanced treatment operations to reduce the turbidity to levels within regulatory limits while the maintenance crew works to repair the broken main. City staff currently projects the system to return to compliance within 24 hours.

We will inform you via facebook, gov delivery, and the city website when turbidity returns to appropriate levels and when you no longer need to boil your water.

For more information, please contact Seth Kelly, at 503 759-0213 or skelly@cityofmolalla.com. General guidelines on ways to lessen the risk of infection by microbes are available from the EPA Safe Drinking Water Hotline at 1(800) 426-4791 or the Oregon Department of Human Services Drinking Water Program at (971) 673-0405.

Please share this information with all the other people who drink this water, especially those who may not have received this notice directly (for example, people in apartments, nursing homes, schools, and businesses). You can do this by posting this notice in a public place or distributing copies by hand or mail.

This notice is being sent to you by the City of Molalla. State Water System ID#: OR4100534.
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Commonly Asked Questions Following A Boil Water Notice

The following information is provided to answer questions from the public about how they should respond to public boil water advisories issued under the USEPA/OHA advisory rules. Public water systems are required to issue boil water notices under the following circumstances:

Failure of a system to meet microbial standards

Failure of a system to meet treatment or turbidity standards

Failure of a system to adequately disinfect drinking water

Failure of a system to maintain positive pressure in distribution

In some cases the hazards will be more acute than others, but not generically different. The presence of organisms is conclusive evidence of potential harm, lack of disinfectant implies that viable organisms may reach customers, and high turbidity interferes with disinfection which can lead to viable organisms surviving and reaching the customer. When boil water notices are in place, customers need to know what uses they can safely continue, and what uses require boiling of the water before use. Since any of the above scenarios result in inadequately treated water reaching households, our advice about safe uses should be consistent. **Water used for activities that require boiling should be brought to a rolling boil for 1 minute.**

Activities that <u>do</u> require boiled water:	**Activities that <u>do not</u> require boiled water:**
Drinking	Showering
Washing food served without cooking or baking	Tub bathing
Adding water to food without cooking or baking	Dish washing or rinsing*
Ice making	Laundering
Cleaning food contact surfaces	General cleaning or mopping
Rinsing your mouth or gargling	Hand washing
Eye washing	Pet watering
Taking water with medications	Pet bathing
Tooth brushing	Plant water or irrigation

*Clean dishes and utensils should be rinsed in water that contains 1 tablespoon of household bleach per gallon of water (100-200 ppm chlorine) and allowed to air dry before use.

Home treatment devices that do not boil or chemically disinfect the water with acceptable disinfectants are not considered reliable alternatives to boiling the water.

Note: Facilities licensed by the county health department or Department of Agriculture may have additional sanitary requirements. Check with the appropriate regulatory agency for details.