

## Can I Boil Roadside Spring Water To Make It Safe?

**No.** Boiling can remove germs, but not harmful chemicals, so boiling roadside spring water would **not** guarantee its safety.



## Is My Community On A “Boil Water Advisory”?

To find out if your community is on a “Boil Water Advisory”, contact your local town council or local service district committee member. You can also find your community listed on the Department of Environment’s water resources website at:

[www.gov.nf.ca/env/water](http://www.gov.nf.ca/env/water)

## ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

For additional information, please contact an Environmental Health Officer at the Government Service Centre, a regional Environmental Health Manager, or the Medical Officer of Health’s office.

### Government Service Centre Locations:

Happy Valley - Goose Bay  
Corner Brook  
Grand Falls - Windsor  
Gander  
Clarenville  
Harbour Grace  
St. John’s

### Health and Community Services & Integrated Board Locations:

Happy Valley - Goose Bay  
St. Anthony  
Corner Brook  
Gander  
Holyrood  
St. John’s

### **Other *Drinking Water Awareness* Pamphlets include:**

*What You Should Know  
About...Giardia*  
*What You Should Know About...Boil  
Water Advisories*  
*What You Should Know About...Home  
Drinking Water Treatment Units*



Department of Health and Community Services  
Regional Health and Community Services Boards  
Department of Government Services and Lands  
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# WHAT YOU SHOULD KNOW ABOUT...

# ROADSIDE SPRING WATER



# DRINKING WATER AWARENESS

## What Is Roadside Spring Water?

Roadside spring water is water beneath the ground which flows naturally to the surface of the earth. Often, people attach hoses or pipes to these springs for collecting the water in buckets.

### Should I Drink Water From Roadside Springs?

**No.** You cannot tell if roadside spring water is safe because the quality can change fast and these sources of water are **not routinely tested** for chemicals or bacteria (germs).

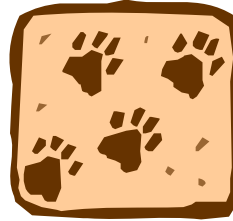


#### Remember-

Just because water looks “crystal clear” does **not** mean that it is safe to drink.

## How Do Roadside Springs Become Contaminated?

Roadside springs are generally not protected from environmental contamination (e.g. feces from animal activity.) Germs can get into the spring water directly from the soil or with the rain as it runs over the ground. Those germs can make you sick with diarrhea or other effects.



In addition to germs, there may be manmade pollutants or unsafe amounts of natural minerals in the spring water.

For these reasons, ‘safe’ spring water can become unsafe in a matter of hours or minutes. No testing of this water would guarantee its safety.

## What Sources Of Water Are Safe For Drinking?

You have several choices of safe drinking water:

- ◇ treated municipal water
- ◇ tested well water from a properly constructed well
- ◇ bottled water

If your community is on a “Boil Water Advisory” the municipal drinking water can be made safe by boiling it for at least one minute.

If your well water has safe amounts of chemicals and minerals but was found to be “unsatisfactory” because of germs, then that water can also be made safe to drink by boiling it for at least one minute.

#### Remember -

Even a well with the best protection can become contaminated over time, therefore any drinking water source should be tested regularly.