



UPDATE: BOIL WATER NOTICE IN EFFECT TEMPORARY REMOVAL OF CHLORINE OLALLA WATER SYSTEM

May 7, 2025

As part of continued efforts to determine the source of contamination entering the Olalla Water System, the Regional District of Okanagan-Similkameen (RDOS), in consultation with the Interior Health Authority (IHA), will be extending the **Boil Water Notice** while temporarily removing the chlorination of the system. The removal of chlorine is required to facilitate further bacteriological testing while configuring the distribution system in a manner that will allow for testing of specific areas to pinpoint the location of the contamination source.

Chlorination of the system will stop on Friday, May 9, 2025. **Again, the Boil Water Notice remains in effect until further notice.**

The Olalla water source well has had bacteriological and chemical testing completed, and there has been no indication of contamination in the well. The storage reservoir was inspected by a Remotely Operated Vehicle (ROV), and there were no signs of contamination originating from the reservoir. This means that it is highly likely that the contamination is entering the system within the distribution network.

Chlorine was added to the Olalla Water System in addition to the Boil Water Notice as an effort to further protect the health of the water system users. However, with chlorine in the system, further bacteriological testing to determine the contaminant source cannot occur as the chlorine kills the bacteria, preventing the bacteria from growing during the required tests.

Operators have changed how the water flows in the distribution system by removing the normal looping circulation of water throughout the water mains. Instead, the water mains will only supply water in one direction towards the created dead ends in the system. This configuration should help identify a problem area by sampling the water as it flows in each single path through the system.

It is imperative that all residents continue to follow the **Boil Water Notice** while the chlorination is removed from the system. Water system users are encouraged to use a safe alternative source of water or boil water for all drinking, brushing teeth, food preparation/cooking purposes, and ice making. Water should be brought to a full boil for at least one (1) minute.

For further information, please contact RDOS Public Works at 250-490-4106 or 250-490-4135 during regular business hours, Monday through Friday.

For after-hours water emergencies, please call RDOS Regional Dispatch at 250-490-4141.

Thank you for your cooperation – RDOS Public Works

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