

Requirements for the Safe Handling of Drinking Water, Ice and Dispensers at Maricopa County Permitted Establishments

With the Arizona heat comes a major challenge for anyone spending time outdoors. If you're using drinking water dispensers and are permitted by the Maricopa County Environmental Services Department, follow these guidelines to minimize the transmission of communicable illnesses:

Water and Ice

- Water and ice must be from a public water distribution system or an approved individual water supply that is tested to ensure conformity with applicable regulations.

Water Dispensers

- The water dispenser shall be constructed of food grade materials and be easily cleaned.
- The spigot should be of a gravity flow design to prevent contamination during use.
- The dispensers shall be cleaned and sanitized at least once every 24 hours. This includes washing with a detergent in the first compartment of a three-compartment sink, rinsing clean with water in the second compartment, and sanitizing with an approved chemical in the third compartment by immersing for one minute. The compartments of the sink shall be of sufficient size to allow immersion of the container. For containers too large to be immersed in the three-compartment sink, a clean and sanitize in-place procedure may be approved.
- Provide an area to allow proper air drying of dispensers. Containers shall not be stored on the floor at any time.
- Cleaning and sanitizing the dispenser nozzle prior to filling containers is required.

Dispenser Filling

- The dispenser shall be filled in a room with smooth, dry, easily cleanable floors, walls, and ceilings.
- The dispenser shall not be placed on the floor while filling.
- The dispenser shall be filled in an area free of environmental contaminants such as dust and insects and kept away from chemical storage or other contaminants.
- The water hose used to fill the dispenser must be food grade (garden hoses are not approved) and not stored on the ground or capable of being submerged into a drain.
- Hoses shall be used exclusively for drinking water dispenser filling and not to

fill other equipment or tanks (such as pesticide, herbicide, battery containers or used to clean other things).

- Plumbing code must be met to protect the water supply. (Cross connections must not be present and backflow devices are required.)
- Ice must be dispensed with an ice scoop (without coming in direct human contact).
- To prevent direct hand contact with the ice, it is recommended that employees wear disposal gloves. Hands must not come in contact with drink/cooling ice at any time.

Dispenser Location

- The dispenser shall be located so that it is free from possible contamination. This includes placing it a minimum of three feet off the ground, locating it so that it will not be subject to other sources of contamination (i.e., hit by sprinkler water or misting systems).
- Water dispensers must be placed in a tamper-proof setting to eliminate access to the ice or contents of the dispenser by removing the top cover.
- Single service cups must be provided and protected at the dispenser.

Personal Hygiene

- Employees must properly wash their hands prior to filling containers.
- A separate hand sink shall be provided for employees to wash their hands. This sink shall be in the same area where containers are filled and the ice is added to the containers.
- Do not allow any sick person to fill or handle water containers.

The establishment must be capable of meeting these requirements to be permitted to dispense bulk water/ice to the public.

If an establishment is not capable of following these guidelines, it is recommended that bottled water be provided.

For more information, call the Maricopa County Environmental Services Department at (602) 506-6970.