



WATER FOR EMERGENCIES

Tape this sheet to the inside of a closet or cupboard door for when you need it!

Take the time NOW to review and restock your emergency water supply. Store a minimum of one gallon per person per day for 3 days. Store more if possible. You'll need water for drinking, for preparing food, for hygiene, and for your pets.

- For emergency supply, commercially bottled water is recommended.
- If you are preparing your own containers, you can purchase food-grade water containers from camping supply stores.
- If you want to reuse containers, 2-liter plastic soft drink bottles are a good choice.
- Don't use containers that have been used for milk or fruit juice.
- Don't use glass containers—they are heavy and may break.
- Clean the plastic containers with dishwashing soap and water and rinse well.
- Then sanitize the bottles with a mix of 1 teaspoon unscented regular liquid household bleach to 1 quart of water; swish the bottles, then rinse thoroughly.
- Fill to the top with tap water and tightly twist on the original cap—avoid touching the inside of the cap before putting it on.
- Write the date on the container. Store in a cool dark place. Do not store directly on concrete (leaching chemicals destroy plastic).
- The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) recommends replacing water every six months (if not using commercially bottled water). Observe/disinfect water in commercially packaged bottles if past their expiration date.
- If stored water is warm, cloudy, or has debris floating within, consider disinfecting the stored water to prevent illness.

EXTRA WATER SOURCES:

Use: Water heater water, water in water pipes, or ice cubes in freezer.

Don't Use: Water from toilet tanks or bowls, swimming pools or spas, or water beds.

Remember: If you don't know if your tap water is safe in a disaster, play it safe and automatically disinfect it until you've been reassured it is safe to drink by the authorities.

HOW TO DISINFECT WATER

#1. Boil water to make it safe. This is the preferred method to assure that the water is safe to drink. Boiling water will kill most types of disease-causing organisms that may be present. First, boil the water for one minute. Let it cool, then store in clean containers with covers.

#2. Disinfect with bleach (use *fresh*, unscented, regular household bleach from a new bottle). Add 1/8 teaspoonful (8 drops) for each gallon of clear water, or 1/4 teaspoonful (16 drops) per gallon of cloudy water. Stir well. Let it stand for 30 minutes before you use it. A chlorine-like taste and odor will result at first, indicating disinfection has taken place.

#3. Water disinfection tablets may be used by following the manufacturer's instructions.