

WATER STORAGE FOR YOUR 7 DAY EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS KIT

- A. Number of persons in household (not incl in B below) _____ x 7 = _____
- B. Number of pregnant / nursing women or special needs _____ x 1.5 x 7 = _____
- C. Pets (one quart per pet per day needed) # Pets in house _____ x 7 ÷ 4 = _____
- A + B + C = _____ Gallons of water YOU need to store for your family.

Without water, you will not survive more than a few days. You cannot rely on public water sources or even wells to be functioning after a disaster. You must store water for each member of your family. **ONE GALLON PER PERSON PER DAY – MINIMUM.** Pregnant and Nursing women and people with special medical needs should have a minimum of 1 ½ gallons per person per day.

YOU CAN BUY BOTTLED WATER OR USE PLASTIC JUGS TO STORE YOUR OWN WATER. Use only PLASTIC containers (glass breaks too easily) with screw on caps. DO USE soda bottles or jugs made for holding water. (If you use 2 liter soda bottles, plan on two bottles per person per day, 3 for pregnant or nursing women). DO NOT USE any container that held cleaning agents or toxic substances, they can leach chemicals into the water over time. DO NOT USE milk jugs, they are too hard to get clean and sterilized and they become very brittle over time.

STORING TAP OR WELL WATER: WASH the container thoroughly with hot tap water and detergent, rinse with hot tap water then rinse with a chlorine bleach solution (10 drops in 2 cups cold water). Put the solution in the container, put the lid on and shake vigorously. Empty bleach solution and fill to the very top with fresh water and seal container tightly. LABEL “Drinking Water” on the outside of the container with a permanent marker and mark with the date. STORE in a cool, dark place – under bed, in closet corners, etc. **ROTATE WATER EVERY 6 MONTHS – GO BY EXPIRATION DATES FOR PURCHASED WATER.**

ADDING BLEACH?

In March, 1994, the Food and Drug Administration and the Environmental Protection Agency stated, “Tap water does not need anything added to it before it is stored because it has already been chemically treated. Commercially purchased water does not need anything added to it. Keep it in its original, sealed container.”

HOW TO TREAT WATER IF YOU ARE UNSURE OF PURITY:

1. Filter water to remove solids – use coffee filter, cheesecloth, or layered paper towels.
2. Boil the water for at least 10 minutes. Then let water cool for 30 minutes.
3. Put 16 drops of liquid chlorine bleach per gallon of cool water, 8 drops per 2 liter bottle. DO NOT USE bleach with fragrance, thickeners, etc. Active ingredient should be 6% hypochlorite ONLY.
4. Let water sit for 30 minutes, smell water and drink only if it smells of chlorine. If it does not smell of chlorine, repeat step # 3 again. If it still doesn't smell of chlorine, DO NOT drink this water.
5. DO NOT use other water purification chemicals or tablets, such as iodine.
6. Boiling the water kills bacteria, viruses and parasites. Chlorine kills viruses, but not all bacteria, so it is necessary to do both to be sure of having purified drinking water. Neither of these methods removes heavy metals, salts or other chemicals.
7. Cloudy and clear water are both treated the same way.

Stored water will taste better if you put oxygen back into it by pouring the water back and forth between two clean containers several times.