

BASICS OF WATER STORAGE

2 week supply of water (14 gallons per person)

WHY STORE WATER?

Water is possibly the most important item you can store for an emergency situation. We use water for drinking, washing, cleaning, cooking, hydrating food items, etc. Water is necessary for survival and should be a priority in every family's emergency preparedness efforts.

"Store drinking water for circumstances in which the water supply in your area may be polluted or disrupted. If water comes directly from a good, pretreated source, then no additional purification is needed; otherwise, pretreat water before use. Store water in sturdy, leak proof, breakage-resistant containers. Consider using plastic bottles commonly used for juices and soft drinks. Keep water containers away from heat sources and direct sunlight." (Information found at www.providentliving.org)

HOW MUCH WATER SHOULD I STORE?

It is recommended to store AT LEAST 14 gallons per person. This is a two week supply of drinking water for the average adult. You will also want to store extra water for washing, cooking, cleaning and bathing needs. 14 gallons=approx. 3 (24 pack) water bottles.

HOW SHOULD THE WATER BE STORED?

The following are some helpful and inexpensive ways to store your water:

- ✓ Emptied out CLEAR 2 liter pop bottles or juice containers.
- ✓ Water bottles: not the least expensive way to store water but they are convenient, already purified and easy to grab and go if needed.
- ✓ Large Drums/Containers: These are great for storing large amounts of water. Keep in mind these will not transfer well and you will not be able to take this water with you if you needed to evacuate or leave your home.
- ✓ Cleaning/Washing Containers: Once you have emptied a detergent container, bleach jug, or cleaning supply container, fill it up with water and store it for later cleaning or washing water. The residue from the soap or bleach will make this water perfect for washing or cleaning.
- ✓ The water in your water heater tank will be available for drinking. The water in your toilet tank will also be available in an emergency for cleaning water.
- ✓ Have a commercial water filter on hand for purifying contaminated water if necessary.

WHAT ARE THE WATER STORAGE GUIDELINES?

(Information taken from www.providentliving.org) Commercially bottled water in PETE (or PET) plastic containers may be purchased. Follow the container's "best if used by" dates as a rotation guideline. Avoid plastic containers that are not PETE plastic. If you choose to package water yourself, consider the following guidelines: Containers

- ✓ Use only food-grade containers. Smaller containers made of PETE plastic or heavier plastic buckets or drums work well.
- ✓ Clean, sanitize, and thoroughly rinse all containers prior to use. A sanitizing solution can be prepared by adding 1 teaspoon (5 ml) of liquid household chlorine bleach (5 to 6% sodium hypochlorite) to one quart (1 liter) of water. Only household bleach without thickeners, scents, or additives should be used.
- ✓ Do not use plastic milk jugs, because they do not seal well and tend to become brittle over time.
- ✓ Do not use containers previously used to store non-food products (water can be stored in non-food containers for cleaning or washing) Water Pretreatment
- ✓ Water from a chlorinated municipal water supply does not need further treatment when stored in clean, food-grade containers.

- ✓ Non-chlorinated water should be treated with bleach. Add 1/8 of a teaspoon (8 drops) of liquid household chlorine bleach (5 to 6% sodium hypochlorite) for every gallon (4 liters) of water. Only household bleach without thickeners, scents, or additives should be used. Storage
- ✓ Containers should be emptied and refilled regularly.
- ✓ Store water only where potential leakage would not damage your home or apartment.
- ✓ Protect stored water from light and heat. Some containers may also require protection from freezing.
- ✓ The taste of stored water can be improved by pouring it back and forth between two containers before use.

***TIP: Have in your food storage a supply of items that will help your stored water taste better. Example: Kool Aid, fruit drink mix, hot chocolate mixes, drink mix powders, etc.*

Additional Resources and Information: www.fema.gov/plan/prepare/water
www.epa.gov/safewater/faq/emerg.html www.epa.gov/safewater/faq/emerg.html

HOW DO I PURIFY MY WATER?

Step 1 Clarify: Cloudy or dirty water must first be made clear. It may be passed through filter paper, fine cloth, or other filter. It may be allowed to settle and the clear water on top carefully drawn. Filtered or clear settled water should always be disinfected before use.

Step 2: Disinfect Boiling Method: Bringing water to a rolling boil for 3 to 5 minutes will kill most water-borne microorganisms. However, prolonged boiling of small quantities of water may concentrate toxic contaminants if present. Bleach Method: Adding 1/8 of a teaspoon (8 drops) of fresh liquid household chlorine bleach (5 to 6% sodium hypochlorite) to every gallon (4 liters) of water will kill most microorganisms. Only household bleach without thickeners, scents, or additives should be used. The use of bleach does not address toxic contamination.



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