



ARE YOU READY FOR THE

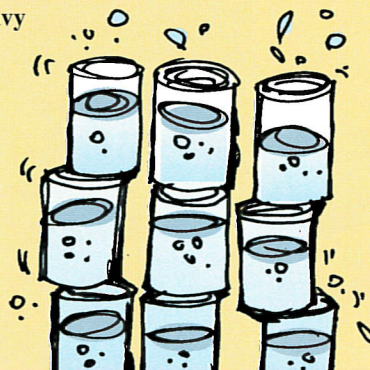
BIG ONE?

Water Access During an Emergency

To protect your family, keep a minimum of **FIVE DAYS OF DRINKING WATER** on hand in easily accessible locations. One gallon per person per day is recommended.

1. How long can I store water?

Replace your emergency water supply every six months to one year because plastic containers can deteriorate. Store it in one or more cool, dark, accessible locations. Do not store plastic bottles directly on concrete. A simple way to ensure that you have fresh water is to buy extra flats of bottled water and use the oldest bottles first. If you have room in your freezer, you can freeze water in heavy food-grade containers such as 2-liter soft drink bottles. (Milk jugs are not recommended.) Frozen bottles of water will help your freezer work more efficiently. During a power outage, you can put them in your refrigerator to keep perishables fresh until the power is restored. Once the water thaws, you can drink it but should not refreeze it.





BIG ONLINE

Water Access During an Emergency

2. What other water sources can I use during an emergency?

Other emergency sources of water that can be drunk, if treated, are the water from your water heater or your toilet tank. Never drink water from pools, hot tubs or toilet bowls; this water may be used for cleaning dishes, washing clothes or personal hygiene, but should not be used for drinking or food preparation. Well water should be treated before drinking.



3. How do I treat water to make it safe?

If the health department issues a "boil order," water should be strained through a clean handkerchief, paper towel or cloth, then boiled for five minutes. Let it cool to room temperature before drinking. To improve the taste of boiled water, pour the water from one container to another to aerate it. If you cannot boil the water, add 1/4 teaspoon (16 drops) of bleach to each gallon of water, mix it thoroughly, then let it stand for 30 minutes before using. The water should have a slight chlorine odor or taste. If not, repeat the dosage and let it stand for an additional 15 minutes. If the water does not have a chlorine odor or taste after the second treatment, do not drink the water. Be sure to use regular bleach, not "ultra," scented or color-safe bleach. You can also use water purification tablets, which are available at stores that sell camping and hiking gear.

4. What should I do if sewer lines are broken?

If stoppage in sewer lines is suspected or obvious, stop discharging wastewater from sinks and tubs and stop using toilets. Avoid contact with any overflowing wastewater or sewage, which can spread disease. Rope off contaminated areas and post warning signs. Notify emergency personnel as soon as possible.



SUPPLY CHECKLIST

- 1 gallon of drinking water per person per day for at least 5 days
- Additional water for needs other than drinking
- Medicine dropper or 1/4 teaspoon
- 1 quart of regular bleach or water purification tablets

