

## Water is Essential to Life!

Water is an essential element to survival and a necessary item in an emergency supply kit. Following a disaster, clean drinking water may not be available. Your regular water source could be cut-off or compromised through contamination. Prepare yourself by building a supply of water that will meet your family's needs during an emergency.

## How Much Water Do You Need?

Store at least one gallon  
of drinking water per person  
per day for 7 – 10 days or

A normally active person needs about a gallon of water daily for drinking, cooking and hygiene. However, individual needs vary, depending on age, health, physical condition, activity, diet and climate.

To determine your water needs, take the following into account:

- One gallon per person per day, for drinking, cooking and hygiene.
- Nursing mothers, children and sick people need more water.
- A medical emergency might require additional water, like rinsing a wound.
- If the weather is warmer, more water is needed. In very hot weather, water needs can double.
- Keep at least 7 - 10 day's supply per person.

## Where Can You Find Fresh Water To Drink?

- **DO** seek disaster and supply information from: FM KPTZ 91.9, KROH 91.1, or the blog from [www.jeffcoecoc.org](http://www.jeffcoecoc.org), or NIXLE text alerts.
- **DO** use commercially bottled water for the safest and most reliable emergency water supply. FDA now states commercially bottled water can be stored indefinitely if stored in a cool, dark place.
- **DO** access your hot water heater supply:
  1. Turn off water intake to prevent incoming contamination.
  2. Turn off pilot light, turn off circuit breakers, or unplug.
  3. Re-adjust venting if needed.
  4. Gather two containers, one can be dirty like a mop bucket, one must be clean for collecting drinking water
  5. Turn on a hot water facet nearby, (avoids airlock that allows tank to drain)
  6. Place dirty container under tank valve and drain 1 to 2 gallons to clear rust flakes or other debris.
  7. When flow is clear, switch to your drinking water container. Draw only what you will need for 2 hours, and then shut off valve.
  8. Anytime after the first 2 hours purify any additional water drawn from the tank. As the water cools from hot to warm it will reach ideal conditions for bacteria to grow.
- **DO** use rain barrels; filter and boil water collected.
- If adequate notice, **DO** place clean liner in your bath tub and fill it with cold water. Filter and/or boil before drinking.
- **DO** check with your water utility company for their emergency water plan.
- **DO** learn where community water wells are and if you can access water.
- **DO** know if your church or other community group has surplus stored water.



## What Do You Need To Know About Water Containers?

- *Only use containers that previously held water or products intended for human consumption.*



- **NEVER** use a container that contained toxic material such as cat litter, pesticides, solvents, chemicals, oil, or antifreeze.
- Check the recycle symbols on plastic containers before re-using.



2, 4, & 5 are the **SAFEST**  
1 & 7 use with **CAUTION**  
3 & 6 **AVOID**

## Medically Fragile or Injured

If you, a family member, neighbor, or anyone you care for is a nursing mother, a child or medically fragile, consider having more than 1 gallon of water per person per day. Additional water may be needed for wound cleaning and hydration of the sick or injured.



*CLEAR Water Does Not  
Mean CLEAN Water*

## Store, Filter, and Purify Water:

### Recipe # 1: Re-fill with Chlorinated Tap Water

- Sanitize used bottle or container with weak solution (8-10 drops in 2 cups water) of plain household chlorine bleach (unscented), then shake, let stand 30 minutes, and drain.
- Fill the rinsed container to the top with tap water, replace lid but do not touch inside of lid.
- Date and store in cool dark place for up to 6 months.

### Recipe # 2: Re-fill with Personal Well Water

- Sanitize used bottles or container with weak solution of plain chlorine bleach (8-10 drops in 2 cups water), shake, let stand 30 minutes, and drain.
- Fill the rinsed container with your well water.
- Add 2 drops of plain chlorine to 16 oz bottle OR Add 8 drops per 2 liter soda bottle OR Add 16 drops per gallon
- Replace lid but do not touch inside of lid
- Date and store in cool dark place for up to 6 months.

### Recipe # 3: Cloudy Water, Rain Barrel Water - Filter It and Boil It!

- Pour water through paper coffee filter, paper towel, cheese cloth, OR
- Draw water through backcountry water filter device, THEN
- Place in pot and bring to boil for 3 - 5 minutes.



**Recipe # 4: Treat with Purification Tablet** you can purchase at most sporting goods stores. Follow purification instructions with product packaging.

## Converting Salt Water to Fresh:

While not recommended as the sole means of drinking water, you can, in a pinch, convert salt water to drinking water.

- In the center of a large pot, place a small empty pot or glass (collection container)
- Pour salt water into large pot, careful not to get any into the collection container
- Place a foil cover over the large pot with a downward cone over the collection container, (upside down pot lid may work).
- Heat salt water until it steams. The steam will rise, condensation will accumulate on foil lid and drip back down into collection container.
- Water in collection container is clean.

## Before a Water Shortage...

- **DO** purchase commercially bottled water.
- **DO** store drinking water using one of the safe recipes for purifying.
- **DO** store extra drinking water in a freezer. It can be used to keep refrigerators cool in a power outage and for drinking as it thaws.

## During a Water Shortage...

- **DO** utilize your stored water responsibly
- **DO** follow all instructions from fire, law, emergency management, your water company or Dept. of Public Health.
- **DO** share with a neighbor, senior or the medically fragile. They will likely need more than one gallon per day per person
- **DO** notify your local water utility of the water outage or poor water quality
- **NEVER** use unknown sources of water without filtering it and boiling it.

## After a Water Shortage...

- **DO** assess your family's water needs during the disaster and modify your water storage accordingly

# DRINKING WATER



“...Water, Water Everywhere  
Nor Any Drop to Drink!”

Samuel Taylor Coleridge

**Have an Emergency Plan for  
Drinking Water  
before a Disaster Hits**

