



Water

- Stock up on water. It's cheap, has a long shelf life, and you cannot live without it. Dehydration is a very real and life-threatening danger. It occurs much quicker than starvation.
- Plan to store one gallon of water per person per day for 7 to 14 days, but store as much extra water as you can find room for in cool, dark places. Remember your pet's needs for water as well.
- Store gallons of bottled water in your freezer. Pour out about 2 cups of water first to allow for the expansion created by freezing. When the power goes off you will have that ice to transfer to your refrigerator to keep food fresh longer. And, you can drink the water after it thaws.

Looking for water after a disaster:

- **Your first option is the water you have stored.**
Municipal water supplies are vulnerable to contamination after a large earthquake.
- **Some of the canned foods you have stored have water or juice in them.**
If you have fruit juices, soda pop, or protein shakes, they will help satisfy your moisture requirements.
- **Water from the hot water heater tank.**
You must turn off the cold water supply to your hot water tank if you wish to use the hot water heater tank as a source of drinking water. Turn off the gas or electric heater for the tank and let the water cool. Open the drain valve at the bottom. If sediment makes water flowing out look murky, continue to drain water until it becomes clear. Murky water can be set aside to use after the sediment settles.
- **Swimming pool water can be used for hygiene – not for drinking.**
- **Water containers:**
 - Any water or other containers with a 1 in a triangle on the bottom of the bottle are okay to drink. Containers with a 3, 6 or 7 in a triangle should **not** be consumed.
 - #1 = Polyethylene terephthalate (PET) – okay for drinking
 - #3 = Polyvinyl Chloride (PVC) – may leach toxic chemicals
 - #6 = Polystyrene (PS) – may leach toxic chemicals
 - #7 = Polycarbonate – contains Bisphenol A (BPA) – may cause developmental and hormonal problems in children and pregnant women

Continued –



Water

Continued -

- Plastic water bottle storage - on wood or cardboard.
Not on a concrete floor as the concrete will leech chemicals into the water.
- Water container storage rotation:
 - ◇ Bottled water from the store (1 and 2 gallon sealed containers) should be rotated every 6 months as they may begin to leak.
 - ◇ 1 and 5 gallon sealable containers from camping or survival stores. First sanitize the container and treat the water you are storing.
 - ◇ 20 oz. to 1 liter designer water containers have a specific expiration date but are generally good for about two years.
 - ◇ 5-gallon water bottles from private water companies. Most claim they are good for up to five years if sealed and correctly stored.
- **Toilet water storage tank.**
Do not use the water from the toilet bowl.
Don't drink the storage tank water if you use any coloring or chemicals in it.
- **Water trapped in home piping.**
Shut off the main water valve to your home. Then open the valve at the highest point on your property (i.e.: shower head). When you next open the valve at the lowest point, gravity will force the water from the pipes. This water could be contaminated unless the main valve was shut off promptly.

How to purify water:

- **The safest method is to bring water to a rolling boil for 5 minutes.**
Double this time if the water is cloudy.
- **You may also use bleach to disinfect water.**
Use household bleach which contains 5.25 percent sodium hypochlorite. Do not use scented bleach, color safe bleach or bleach with added cleansers. If water appears clear, add 8 drops of bleach per gallon of water, stir, and let stand for 30 minutes. If water appears cloudy, increase the bleach to 16 drops. The water will have a slight bleach odor. If it doesn't, repeat the dosage and let stand for another 15 minutes. Add bleach when you first store the water away. If untreated, it becomes contaminated with bacteria and algae.
- **Or add 2% Tincture of Iodine to the water (12 drops per gallon of water).**
Double this dose if the water is cloudy.
- **Don't forget to sanitize your food & water containers before using them.**
Wash with soap and water, then fill with a 10% bleach solution. After 5 minutes, empty and let air dry.
- **Water that is dirty should first be strained.**
Use a coffee filter, cheese cloth or a paper towel to remove suspended matter.