



Essential Water- Sources and Storage

By Ann Floden

Water is something you don't want to be without, whether it is at home, in your vehicle or in a disaster. Your body needs water to function and having enough stored for your household in an emergency or disaster, is the main item you need to be concerned about. This amount includes water you will need for cooking, brushing your teeth and other things that require pure water. Plan for a back-up source in case your first choice is damaged.

There are various sources of drinkable water and numerous recommendations on how to store it. But what works easily for seniors and is not complicated? Most homes in Sun City have 1 or 2 adults plus pets. Water is heavy. Water does not deteriorate but it can be contaminated. Dark, cooler places are best for storing it. Bottled water needs to be rotated routinely, depending on how it's stored which can range from 6 months to 5 years. And so on.

Some Easy Solutions -

Most of you have a 40 gallon water heater which provides drinkable water if handled properly. This is a sizeable amount of drinkable water that should not be wasted by becoming contaminated. You can find a flyer how to do this on our website and it's good practice to post the instructions near your hot water heater. Also check out the video showing how to turn off utilities on our website, <https://epc.sepdcaclubs.com> Then click on the Documents and Videos tab at the top.



Canned water is a good choice as it has a long shelf life and once in place, requires no maintenance. You just store the water, don't have to rotate it or worry about contamination. Individual products have various shelf life. At present the Coachella Valley Disaster Preparations Network is using Simpler Life, which is good for 100 years.



This long term shelf life, canned water can be supplemented with regular bottled water for washing, etc. The one gallon plastic containers of water are fairly easy to work with, not too heavy and are not very expensive. They do need to be rotated routinely (18 months) and have seams that might allow evaporation or leaking (the solution: store the plastic container in another plastic box). Do not store plastic water bottles directly on concrete as they can be contaminated by impurities leaching in from the concrete. Put something between the bottle and the concrete.

Purifying Water. If you have any concerns about the quality of water, be on the safe side and purify it.

-  The safest method is to bring water to a rolling boil for 5 minutes.
-  Any water that is dirty or clouded should be strained as much as possible first and then treated.
-  Household bleach is a safe disinfectant as long as it is not scented or contains other additives. Add 8 drops of bleach per gallon to clear water, stir and let stand for 30 minutes. To cloudy water add 16 drops.
-  2% Tincture of Iodine also is effective. Add 12 drops per gallon to clear water, 24 drops if cloudy.
-  Life Straw. This handy little device removes 99.9% of the waterborne bacteria and protozoan cysts. It can be found on the web by googling "life straw."

In case you missed it, our May 2026 News & Views article was about why water is so essential for your body.



Stay well and stay hydrated !!

