



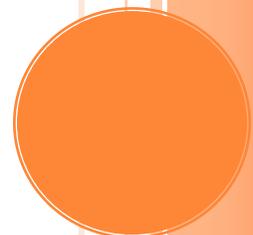
WATER STORAGE & PURIFICATION

Ideas for Emergency Situations

Do you need to get your water storage in order? There is more to water storage than you might think - How much do you really need for your family? What should you store it in? Where can you get water in an emergency? If you have to use water that might be unsafe - how is it purified?

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Water Storage & Purification

Ideas for Emergency Situations

How Much Do You Need?

Use the FEMA recommendation of 14 gallons per person / per day as a starting point for your family. Consider increasing this amount if you have infants or aged people in your home, teenagers, or if you live in an area that has extreme heat in the summer. If you have freeze dried food in your storage and/or pets, you will want to have access to additional water. I think of my water storage as two different types – drinkable and flushable.

Storage Containers

Look around your house for things you might already have. One or two liter pop bottles and empty canning jars are a simple way to start. Using regular tap water, fill the bottles to the brim (no airspace) and cap tightly. There is no need to treat tap water with any other clarifier. You can purchase 1 to 5 gallon containers at most outdoor stores and 55 gallon barrels are also available, just make sure they are food grade quality. Remember, water is heavy, so fill these big containers where they will be stored. *What not to use for drinking water:* bleach bottles, milk jugs or metal containers

Sources

Once the power is out your water will stop flowing – what are your options? Bottled water, stored canned fruit juices, water from home hot-water tanks and toilet tanks (not the bowl!) Those on wells will have a supply in their tank but may need generators and hand pumps when the supply is gone. Pools or hot tubs are a great source for flushing and washing but not for drinking.

You lose 8 to 12 cups of water each day. Nearly 3/4th's of your body is made up of water.

Water Treatment Methods

- First step - Filter out the debris with coffee filters, cheesecloth or paper towels
- Consider a water filter or purifier – found at all sporting goods stores
- Boil it – rolling boil for at least five minutes, not when you put it on the stove
- Bleach – 2 drops per quart / 8 drops per gallon if the water is clear. Double for cloudy
- Iodine tablets or drops. Allow it to stand for 30 minutes after mixing
- GSE - Grapefruit Seed Extract, an all in one natural, antibacterial product. Use 20-30 drops per gallon

Shelf Life

Water can be stored for long periods of time, five years or more, if it doesn't react with the container. It may change somewhat in taste or odor but these qualities are not harmful. Check your supply every year or so to make sure the containers have not leaked. Early rotation is not necessary as long as your container is sound.