

4. No Electricity for Water Pumps and No Clean City Water. What Now?

Purpose: Help each family determine how much water is needed per family member. Review methods of water storage and purification.

Family Discussion: Water is more important than food for survival. In a disaster, clean, safe drinking water may not be available from normal sources such as a well or a city water supply. How will we provide the necessary water for our family?

Ask, “How many gallons of water are needed per person per day for drinking water?” (See below) Have family members calculate the total family water needs for three days and for five days. Use these guidelines to determine quantity of water needed and the safest methods of treating and storing water.

Check-off List:

- Keep at least a three-day supply of water**, that is, a minimum of three gallons per person. It is strongly recommended that you store more if possible. *Each person should have one-half gallon per day for drinking and one-half gallon for cooking and sanitation.* A normally active person needs to drink at least one-half gallon of water each day. Hot environments and intense physical activity can double that amount. Children, nursing mothers, and ill people will also need more. Be sure to include drinking and clean-up water for your pets. The amount needed will depend on their sizes and the conditions.
- Containers**
 - Use only food-grade containers. Smaller containers made of PETE plastic or heavier plastic buckets or drums work well.
 - Clean, sanitize, and thoroughly rinse all containers prior to use. A sanitizing solution can be prepared by adding 1 teaspoon (5 mL) of liquid household chlorine bleach (5 to 6% sodium hypochlorite) to one quart (1 liter) of water. Only household bleach without thickeners, scents, or additives should be used.
 - Do not use plastic milk jugs, because they do not seal well and tend to become brittle over time. (They will begin to leak without you realizing it.)
 - Do not use containers previously used to store non-food products, such as Clorox bottles. (In addition to causing other problems, they will begin to leak without you knowing it.)
 - Heating water to 150 degrees will pasteurize the water and kill all pathogens.
- Water Pre-treatment**
 - Water from a chlorinated municipal water supply does not need further treatment when stored in clean food-grade containers.
 - Non-chlorinated water should be treated with bleach. Add 1/8 teaspoon (8 drops) of liquid household chlorine bleach (5 to 6% sodium hypochlorite) for every gallon (4 liters) of water. Use only household bleach without thickeners, scents, or additives.

☐ **Storage**

- Containers should be emptied and refilled regularly (at least every six months).
- Store water only where potential leakage would not damage your home or apartment.
- Protect stored water from light and heat. Some containers may also require protection from freezing.
- The taste of stored water can be improved by pouring it back and forth between two containers before use.

Resources

Managing Water:

<http://www.ready.gov/managing-water>

Water Filtration Bottle Kit:

<http://tinyurl.com/flood-prep-and-safety>

Ground Water & Drinking Water:

<http://www.epa.gov/safewater/faq/emerg.html>