

Water Storage Tips

1. Water should never be stored in milk jugs.
 - a. They are porous, and chemicals can easily leach into your water.
 - b. They leak

2. Water should never be stored on concrete. Always place water on a wooden board, a few layers of carpet, or an old metal rack.
 - a. Concrete absorbs water from the ground beneath it.
 - b. Concrete contains many poisonous chemicals and as it absorbs ground water, these can leach into the plastic containers. You would not taste them, but you could become very sick.

3. If using large 55-gallon drums, be aware that if they have been used for other things, the barrel will absorb the flavor of the item originally stored in it. (A pickle barrel will leave water tasting like pickles.) NEVER, NEVER store water in a barrel that has been used for anything except a food ingredient.

4. Clean, sanitize, and thoroughly rinse all containers prior to using. A sanitizing solution can be prepared by adding 1teaspoon (5ml) of liquid household chlorine bleach (5 to 6% sodium hypochlorite) to one quart of water. Only household bleach without thickeners, scents, or additives should be used.

5. Water from a chlorinated municipal water supply **does not need** further treatment when stored in clean, food-grade containers.

6. Containers should be emptied and refilled regularly.
 - a. Protect stored water from light, heat, or freezing.
 - b. The taste of stored water can be improved by pouring it back and forth between 2 containers before use.

7. Keep 100 paper cups per person, minimum. Also, keep hot cups for soups and stews. Purchase only paper cups. If we have an extended power outage we may be dealing with a major disaster and may not have trash collection. Paper products can be burned, plastic will emit dangerous gasses and could be a real danger to your family and others.

8. As a minimum, store at least one gallon per person per day and store at least a three-day supply of water for each family member in your home.

9. There are hidden water sources in your home. Without a stored supply of clean water, you can use the water in your water heater, water pipes, and even your ice maker.

10. Do you know the location of your incoming water valve?

- a. You'll need to shut it off to stop contaminated water from entering your home.
- b. Usually, the valve is located in the parking strip next to the street.

11. There are two ways to purify water of uncertain quality before using it for drinking, food prep, or hygiene.

- a. Boiling: bring water to a rolling boil for 3-5 minutes. After boiling, water will taste better if you pour it between 2 clean containers.
- b. Refer to **#4** for disinfecting.

12. Don't forget to store water for your pets. Observe how much they drink and store enough appropriately with a little extra.

You can search on-line for more at:

<http://www.fema.gov/plan/prepare/water>