



The Emergency Water Supply eBooklet is designed to help you find alternate sources of water in an emergency as well as explain different ways you can purify water when it is necessary.

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# Emergency Water Supply

Water supply may be cut off completely during a disaster. It can also be polluted due to cracked or broken pipes. As a rule of thumb, allow 1/2 gallon of water per family member per day, and store a 14-day reserve supply. If you have pets, include additional water for them.

## Alternate Sources of Drinking Water:

- **Water from the water heater (if it remains upright)**

To get the water out of the tank you should turn off the cold water supply to the tank. This prevents contaminated water from the city's system to be drawn into the tank as you drain it). Then open any hot water tap in the house to allow air to enter so the water will flow out. Drain needed water from the bottom of the tank at the drain valve.

- **Water drawn immediately into the bathtub before the possibility of pollution**

- **Melted ice cubes**

- **Canned juices and soft drinks, water packed canned goods**

- **Toilet water storage**

The water must come from the tank and not the bowl. It must not have additives in it. Do not drink water colored with chemical agents.

- **Commercially bottled drinking water**

It is best to store bottled water in a cool, dry, with constant temperature. It should not be exposed to odors or odor causing products such as soap or gasoline. It is recommended that you rotate bottled water every 6 months.

- **Tap water**

Purify water for storage. Be sure to seal containers tightly. Water stored like this should be replaced every 6 months.

- **Do not drink swimming pool water or water from waterbeds. Chemicals and salts are harmful to the kidneys.**

- **Emergency outdoor water sources include rainwater, streams, rivers and other moving bodies of water, ponds and lakes, natural springs. Avoid water with floating material, an odor or dark color. Use salt water only if you distill it first. You should not drink flood water. Be sure to purify the water according to the instructions below before drinking it.**

## Two Ways to Purify Water:

- **Boiling.** Boiling is the safest method of purifying water. Bring water to a rolling boil for 3-5 minutes, keeping in mind that some water will evaporate. Let the water cool before drinking. Boiled water will taste better if you put oxygen back into it by pouring the water back and forth between two clean containers. This will also improve the taste of stored water.

- **Disinfection.** You can use household liquid bleach to kill microorganisms. Use only regular household liquid bleach that contains 5.25 percent sodium hypochlorite. Do not use scented bleaches, colorsafe bleaches or bleaches with added cleansers.

Amount of water	Amount of chlorine:		Amount of tincture of Iodine 2% to add to:	
	clear water	cloudy water	clear water	cloudy water
1 quart	2 drops	4 drops	3 drops	6 drops
1 gallon	8 drops	16 drops	12 drops	24 drops
5 gallons	1/2 tsp	1 tsp	3/4 tsp	1 1/2 tsp