

HOW TO STORE WATER



WHY

In a disaster such as a large magnitude earthquake, water systems will most likely suffer damage and safe water will not be available. Store a two-week supply of water for each family member now. Remember, you can only survive without water for a short time. Learn how to shut off the water supply to your house or business.

HOW TO STORE WATER

Water should be stored in plastic containers, preferably heavy, opaque plastic with tight-fitting, screw-on caps. Mark date on containers when stored and place in a cool, dark location. Use within one year and replace. A small amount of household bleach (5.25% sodium hypochlorite) - 8 drops per gallon - will prevent bacterial growth. Purchased bottled water can be stored as purchased for several years.

OTHER EMERGENCY SOURCES

Your household water heater tank can supply 30 - 60 gallons for an emergency supply. Water heater drain taps should be turned on once a month to drain rust and sediment. When not under pressure (main valve to the house shut off), the tank may have to be vented by opening the hot water faucet or disconnecting the hot water line at the top of the heater. Turn off gas or electricity to the tank before draining off water for emergency use. Melted ice cubes, toilet reservoir tanks (without disinfectants), and juices from canned foods may also be used.

(See next page for water purification methods)

HOW TO PURIFY WATER

BOILING:

Boil vigorously for 3-5 minutes. To improve the taste, pour from one container to another several times to aerate.

PURIFICATION TABLETS:

Available at most drug stores and sporting goods stores. Follow directions on package.

BLEACH PURIFICATION:

Liquid household bleach* (sodium hypochlorite 5.25%) can be used. Add according to the table below. Mix thoroughly and let stand for 30 minutes.

AMOUNT OF WATER	CLEAR WATER	CLOUDY WATER
1 quart	2 drops	4 drops
1 gallon	8 drops	16 drops
5 gallons	« tsp.	1 tsp.
50 gallons	1 tbsp. (3 tsp.)	1 oz. (2 tbsp.)
100 gallons	1 oz. (2 tbsp.)	2 oz.
500 gallons	2 oz.	4 oz. (« cup)
1,000 gallons	4 oz. (« cup)	16 oz. (2 cups)
5,000 gallons	16 oz. (2 cups)	32 oz. (1 qt.)
10,000 gallons	32 oz. (1 qt.)	60 oz.

* IMPORTANT NOTE: If liquid pool chlorine (10% available chlorine) is used, add half of the amounts shown on the chart above.