Emergency WATER STORAGE

You can live weeks without food but only days without water. Plan on **1 gallon per person per day** for drinking and cooking. Three days is the minimum; two weeks is better. Do the math for your family, then build up a little at a time.

MY WATER MATH

FAMILY

_____ people × 1 gallon × _____ days = _____ gallons

PETS

_____ lb of pet × 1 oz × _____ days ÷ 128 = _____ gallons

EXTRA

hot weather, nursing moms, sick family, hygiene: + _____ gallons

MY GOAL

_____ gallons total

QUICK CHART

People	3 days	2 weeks	30 days
1	3 gal	14 gal	30 gal
2	6 gal	28 gal	60 gal
3	9 gal	42 gal	90 gal
4	12 gal	56 gal	120 gal
5	15 gal	70 gal	150 gal
6	18 gal	84 gal	180 gal
7	21 gal	98 gal	210 gal
8	24 gal	112 gal	240 gal

STORAGE OPTIONS

Container	Holds	Good to know
Store-bought bottled water	16 oz–1 gal	Easiest start. Keep it sealed and use by the date on the package.
2-liter soda bottles	about ½ gal	Wash, sanitize and fill. Skip milk and juice jugs: they leak and hold onto residue.
5–7 gallon jugs	5–7 gal	Food-grade, with a spigot. A 5-gallon jug weighs about 42 lb full.
55-gallon drum	55 gal	Food-grade (usually blue). Needs a pump. Over 450 lb full, so fill it where it will live.
Bathtub water bladder	up to ~100 gal	Fill when a storm is coming. Short-term only.

HIDDEN WATER ALREADY IN YOUR HOME

- ☐ Water heater: turn off its power or gas first, then drain from the valve at the bottom
- ☐ Water in your pipes: open the highest faucet, then catch water from the lowest one
- ☐ Ice cubes and frozen water bottles
- ☐ Liquid in canned fruits and vegetables
- ☐ Don't drink: toilet tank or bowl, waterbed, pool or radiator water

WHERE TO KEEP IT Somewhere cool and dark, away from gasoline, paint and chemicals. Set containers on a pallet or board, not right on concrete.

MAMA TIP Tuck a few bottles in the freezer. They help keep food cold in an outage, and they're drinking water once they melt.

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Safe to Drink WATER PURIFICATION

If your stored water runs out, or you're not sure it's safe, here's how to make water safe to drink, following the EPA's emergency guidance. Bottled water is always the first choice when you have it.

BOILING (BEST)

1. Let cloudy water settle, then filter it through a clean cloth, paper towel or coffee filter.
2. Bring to a **rolling boil for 1 minute** (3 minutes above 5,000 feet).
3. Let it cool, then store in clean, covered containers.
4. Flat taste? Pour it back and forth between clean containers.

UNSCENTED BLEACH

Water	6% bleach	8.25% bleach
1 quart / liter	2 drops	2 drops
1 gallon	8 drops	6 drops
2 gallons	16 drops (¼ tsp)	12 drops (⅛ tsp)
4 gallons	⅓ tsp	¼ tsp
8 gallons	⅔ tsp	½ tsp

1. Use **regular, unscented** chlorine bleach, less than a year old.
2. Cloudy, colored or very cold water? **Double** the bleach.
3. Stir and wait **30 minutes**. It should smell slightly of chlorine. If not, repeat and wait 15 more minutes.

READ THE LABEL Check the bleach's percentage before you measure. Never use scented, color-safe or splash-less bleach, and don't mix bleach with anything else.

ROTATION LOG

Swap stored tap water about every 6 months. A good habit: when the clocks change.

Container	Where it's stored	Filled on	Treated?	Replace by	Done
			☐		☐
			☐		☐
			☐		☐
			☐		☐
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