



Water Storage

Goal: 14 Gallons Per Person in Your Household

Loss of safe drinking water can be deadly. Most people, with few exceptions, will be feeling the effects if they do not consume water for more than 36 hours. You and your family can live quite some time without food, but only a short time without water. Water is the single most abundant substance in the body. It is the most essential of all nutrients. It is the second only to air in the importance of life. Water aids in the digestive process, temperature control and brain function.

Therefore, do not underestimate the importance of storing water in your home. Water is probably the least expensive item to store. Many types of disasters can cut off or contaminate water for short or extended periods of time. Be sure all family members know where to find safe water, how to purify water and the location of the home's main incoming water valve. The time to store water is now! We take water for granted when things are normal. In an emergency it is absolutely critical both for hydration but also for sanitation.

Key points:

- The minimum should be 1 gal per day or **14 gallons per person** or for a family of 4 you should have at least 56 gallons on hand. Store more if you have babies or small children, elderly or people with medical needs. Also count pets who will also need water. Once the goal is reached it would be wise to if space and budget allow to store more.
- **You should not have all your water located in one spot in your home and should not be located all in one container.** Water does best when stored in a cool, dark location between 59-86 degrees. You need some water in containers which you can carry out of your house, i.e. in 72 hour kits.
- **Store your family's water in different types of containers.** You can store them in a 50 gallon blue drum or larger, smaller 5 gallon containers, 2 liter cleaned out soda bottles and even smaller bottles that come in a case of 24.
- It is suggested that all families have **some 5 gal. containers of water.** In case of long term water emergencies, they can be used to transport water from water trucks or other sources to your home.

For more details on the best type of containers, where to store, other sources of water and how to treat water contact your Area Emergency Specialist and ask them for handout titled "Water Storage Resource Sheet". Or contact gbrustad@hotmail.com for a copy. V.1.0