

# EMERGENCY WATER STORAGE



STORE IT NOW!!!  
DON'T WAIT  
FOR AN EMERGENCY

## WHY?

In a disaster, such as a large magnitude earthquake, water systems will most likely suffer damage and safe water will not be available. It is necessary to store a two week supply of water for each family member. Two (2) gallons per person per day covers drinking, first aid and cooking needs; also, be sure to include water provisions for pets. 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 months.

## OTHER EMERGENCY WATER SOURCES

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

## HOW TO PURIFY WATER

- BOILING Boil vigorously 3-5 minutes. To improve taste, pour from one container to another several times to aerate.
- PURIFICATION TABLETS Available at most drug stores. Follow directions on package.
- BLEACH PURIFICATION Liquid household bleach (5.25% sodium hypochlorite) can be used. Add according to table below. Mix thoroughly and let stand for 30 minutes.

### AMOUNT OF WATER

1 quart  
1 gallon  
5 gallons

### CLEAR WATER

2 drops  
8 drops  
½ teaspoon

### CLOUDY WATER

4 drops  
16 drops  
1 teaspoon

By Frances Papapietro