

Water Storage & Purification

The most important disaster supply you need to store is water. You may not get drinkable water from your tap for weeks.

Store one gallon per person per day for a minimum of 3 days. The recommended period is 14 days. This water is for both drinking and sanitation. Nursing mothers, the elderly or the ill may need one extra gallon per day.

Dogs & cats need three ounces of water per pound of body weight per day for 14 days.

Use commercially bottled water or fill sturdy, food-grade plastic bottles and store them in the freezer.

If you're not freezing the water, store it in a cool, dark place, preferably in several places around the house. Opaque bottles are better than transparent ones.

If you're storing water in the garage, don't put plastic water containers directly on the concrete floor—this will weaken the containers. Place them on wooden boards.

Stored properly, Berkeley tap water will last up to 6 months without requiring disinfection.

How to Disinfect Water

There are three methods for disinfecting water:

- Boil it for one minute at a roiling boil
- Use commercial purification tablets (from camping supply stores)
- Use chlorine bleach

Disinfecting with Chlorine Bleach

Use only standard, household, unscented liquid chlorine bleach. Apply the right quantity of bleach, based on the percentage of Sodium Hypochlorite

indicated on the bleach bottle's label. Use an eye dropper to apply the bleach and discard after use.

After adding bleach, shake the water container well and wait 30 minutes for the bleach to kill harmful organisms. Then the water is ready for drinking or storage.

After a shelf life of six months, bleach starts to degrade. Even in its original bottle, bleach becomes 20 percent less effective as each year goes by.

Concentration: Percent of Sodium Hypochlorite	Drops per gallon (if water is clear)	Drops per gallon (if water is cloudy)
1%	40 drops	80 drops (1 teaspoon)
4% - 6%	8 drops	16 drops (1/4 teaspoon)
Most common → 7% - 10%	4 drops	8 drops

Further Information

http://www.cityofberkeley.info/uploadedFiles/Fire/Level_3_-_General/Water-Storage-Guide-Handout.pdf

http://www.cityofberkeley.info/uploadedFiles/Fire/Level_3_-_General/How-to-purify-water-handout.pdf

https://www.scripps.edu/newsandviews/e_20060213/bleach.html

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