



Water Safety

How to Store and Boil Water

In a disaster such as a large magnitude earthquake, water systems will most likely suffer damage and safe water may not be available for consumption.

Prepare in Advance

- Store a two-week supply of water for each family member -2 gallons per person per day to cover drinking, cooking, and personal hygiene.
- 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 the 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.

How to Purify Water:

- **Boiling:** Boiling is the safest method of purifying water. Bring water to a rolling boil for at least one minute. Increase boiling time to at least three minutes if you live at high elevations above 6500 feet. To improve taste, pour from one container to another several times.
- **Purification Tablets:** Available at most drug stores. Follow directions on the package.
- **Bleach Purification:** Liquid household bleach (*sodium hypochlorite* 5.25%) can be used. Add according to the table below. Mix thoroughly; let stand for 30 minutes.
Note: Household bleach that contains perfumes or ingredients other than sodium hypochlorite should not be used, as they may be toxic.

Amount of Water	Clear Water	Cloudy Water
1 quart	2 drops	4 drops
1 gallon	8 drops	16 drops
5 gallons	1/2 tsp.	1 tsp.