



How to Prepare Your Emergency Water Supply

WHY DO YOU NEED A SUPPLY OF EMERGENCY WATER?

BECAUSE EMERGENCIES HAPPEN. Northshore Utility District staff are prepared to respond as quickly as possible in emergencies. But if a major earthquake or large-scale disaster damaged the water supply system, *you could be without water for days.*

HOW LONG COULD YOU GET BY WITHOUT WATER FOR:

- ▶ Drinking
- ▶ Cooking
- ▶ Cleaning
- ▶ Personal hygiene
- ▶ Flushing away waste

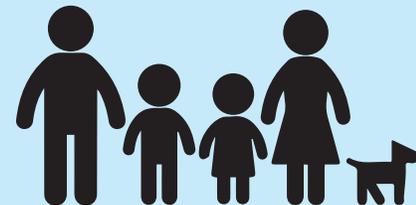


A 2014 Boston water main break left many residents without water for several days and emptied most stores of bottled water. **PREPARING NOW gives you peace of mind that you'll be covered in an emergency.**

EVERY HOME SHOULD MAINTAIN A SUPPLY OF EMERGENCY DRINKING WATER:

at least

3 GALLONS PER PERSON / PET



FEMA recommends maintaining at least a 3-day emergency water supply - that amounts to **1 gallon per person or pet per day.** For example: a family of **FIVE** would store at least **15 GALLONS.** If you have room to store enough for 10 days, even better.

HOW DO YOU PUT TOGETHER YOUR SUPPLY?

2 basic options

1 BUY COMMERCIALLY BOTTLED WATER AND REPLACE EVERY YEAR

Convenient and low-cost, but creates more waste. *(Most bottled water is just more expensive tap water.)*



Keep several cases of bottled water in your garage/pantry to serve as your emergency supply. Use them up and replace every year.

A case of forty 16.9oz bottles gives you about 5 gallons for around \$5.

2 STORE TAP WATER IN YOUR OWN REUSABLE CONTAINERS AND REPLACE EVERY YEAR

After one-time container investment, saves money and waste, but requires some yearly prep.



Water storage containers can vary in cost from \$15-\$100, depending on size.

For value & handling ease: FDA-approved 5-gallon food-grade buckets with pour spout lids can cost as low as \$7 each from online suppliers.

Follow these steps to build your emergency water supply using your own containers:

1 SELECT SAFE CONTAINERS



YOU CAN USE:

- ▶ Empty 2-Liter soda bottles
- ▶ 5-gallon water containers
- ▶ Food-grade BPA-free buckets or drums (best with pour spout), usually sold online

DO NOT USE: Empty bleach or detergent bottles or milk jugs

2 THOROUGHLY CLEAN CONTAINERS



Wash with dishwashing soap and water. Rinse completely to remove any residue.

DON'T FORGET TO CLEAN LIDS TOO!

3 SANITIZE CONTAINERS WITH BLEACH



Use unscented liquid household chlorine bleach:

- ▶ 1 teaspoon bleach per quart or 2-Liter-size container OR
- ▶ 4 teaspoons per gallon (about 1/3 cup for 5-gallon container)

Swish solution so it touches all sides of container and lid. Rinse container thoroughly with water.

4 FILL CONTAINERS TO TOP WITH TAP WATER



IF USING NORTHSORE UTILITY DISTRICT WATER: no further treatment is needed.

IF USING WELL WATER / WATER FROM NON-TREATED SOURCE: add 2 drops unscented liquid household chlorine bleach per gallon of water (about 1/8 teaspoon for 5-gallon container).

5 DATE OUTSIDE OF CONTAINER



This reminds you when it's time to replace your water supply every year.

Tip:

Make emergency prep an annual family event! Take the opportunity to review communications plans, take stock of supplies and replace your emergency water together.

6 STORE CONTAINERS IN A COOL, DARK PLACE



A garage, pantry or storage closet works well.

BUT KEEP AWAY FROM HAZARDOUS MATERIALS LIKE PAINT OR CHEMICALS.

Questions about this info? Contact us anytime!

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