

FAMILY WATER STORAGE

2007

In an emergency no outside water source can be presumed safe (including ground water or tap water). Store clean water *before* the crisis.

How Much? *Two Gallons, per person, per day*

FEMA recommends a minimum of ½ gallon per person per day; more for children or in times of stress or in hot climates. Most recommendations are 1 gallon per person per day for drinking. Allow more for first aid, cooking, cooling down, etc. (minimum 2 gallons per person per day)
(recommended minimum: 2-55 gallon barrel per person = 4 - 8 week supply)

How to Store?

*New 55 gallon food grade barrels (blue) **BEST for drinking***

Cheapest and easiest way to store water. New barrels are safest for drinking water as they will not taint the water in any way and do not provide a residual food source for bacteria or any residual tastes. Used barrels are safe for washing or drinking **IF** you can purify and filter to be sure water is safe.

Other ideas:

Blue Plastic Drums (5, 15, and 30 gallon)

Totes (hard and soft) 100+ gallon

5-6 gallon Mylar water storage bags in cardboard boxes, or collapsible jugs

2 liter plastic soda bottles with screw on lids (PETE), bottled water

NOT soft plastic water bottles (leak) or bleach bottles/milk jugs (not safe).

Where to Store

Store where easily accessible for emergency use and water source to fill. Best stored in dark, cool place. Can be store outside, off of ground, covered, in shade if possible. Store away from insecticides, petroleum or anything else with a strong odor.

Cleaning Barrels

FEMA recommends that *used* containers to be used for storing water be rinsed with a diluted bleach solution of 1 part bleach to 10 parts water before filling and roll around to clean then empty and rinse thoroughly (use regular Clorox Bleach - must not contain soaps or scents). Also can be cleaned with hot, soapy pressure washer at car wash. New barrels just need to be rinsed out.

Filling 55 Gallon Barrels

Put barrel where it will be stored (weighs @450 lbs when full). Use white plastic hose* to fill allowing water to run clear for a few minutes before filling to wash out any sitting water. Clean water in, clean water out. Fill, leaving 2" space at top to allow for freezing. Use bung wrench to tighten tops when done filling

***White Hose:** (can be found at RV suppliers / Walmart **NOT** rubber garden hose (Consumer Report May 2003 "Dare you Drink from a Garden Hose")

<http://www.consumerreports.org/cro/search.htm?query=garden+hose+drinking>

New Barrels: fill with clean water.

Used Barrel : clean water and 1/4 c. bleach/additive; purify with good filter before drink

Rotating

New: 1 year or 5 years (with additive) **Used:** every year w/ bleach, longer with additive

Other Needs

Bung Wrenches- required to open and close barrels (some include bucket and gas turnoffs)

Pump or Siphons- to pump water out of barrels (at least 2)

Portable Dispensers- 5 gallon jugs with faucets; for easy house usage and evacuating.

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