



## Where can I find more water and how do I make it safe to drink?

Water heaters can typically provide you with 30 to 80 gallons of water before they are empty. Any water that you find outside needs to be treated for bacteria and viruses before it is safe to drink. Do not try to treat flood water or any stagnant source that does not flow freely. A clean cloth can serve as a sediment filter for water that you collect. Boil all water at a full rolling boil for at least a minute (or three if you are over 5,000 feet above ground level).

### For more information

Emergency water supply preparation:  
[cdc.gov/healthywater/emergency/creating-storing-emergency-water-supply.html](https://www.cdc.gov/healthywater/emergency/creating-storing-emergency-water-supply.html)

Emergency disinfection:  
[cdc.gov/healthywater/drinking/travel/emergency\\_disinfection.html](https://www.cdc.gov/healthywater/drinking/travel/emergency_disinfection.html)



### Credits

Oregon Office of Emergency Management

### Websites

[iema.illinois.gov](https://iema.illinois.gov)  
[ready.illinois.gov](https://ready.illinois.gov)



# Prepare to Stay Hydrated



# DON'T RATION YOUR WATER. STAY HYDRATED, MY FRIEND.



## Introduction to “Two Weeks Ready”

Taking time to prepare for potential disasters could save your life and the lives of people that you know. Having three days of emergency supplies on hand is a great way to be ready for power outages or temporary evacuations, but bigger disasters that destroy roads and infrastructure demand more preparation. Acquiring supplies and assistance will be far more difficult under those circumstances, which is why individuals, families, communities, and businesses should have plans to be self-sufficient for two weeks.



## How much water do you need?

Plan to have at least a gallon of water for each person and pet in your household per day. You may need more than that for people with special needs like pregnant women and infants. Be prepared to use about half of your supply for drinking and the other half for sanitation and food preparation.



## How to sanitize your own container

Wash and rinse your container, then prepare a sanitizing solution to put in it. Mix one teaspoon of unscented liquid chlorine bleach with one quart of water, then dump the solution into the container and shake vigorously to make sure that all surfaces are covered. Keep shaking for 30 seconds, then empty the container and let it dry. You can now store water in that container.

Any untreated water that comes from a well or other source should be sterilized. You can boil that type of water or add 1/8 a teaspoon of liquid chlorine bleach per each gallon that you want to treat. Water that comes from a municipal source is already treated and does not need to be boiled unless local officials are recommending it. Be sure to label and date your containers.



## How to store water?

Water should be stored in a cool, dark spot if possible. Bottled water is a useful addition to any storage location, but you can also use food-grade plastic or rust-free metal containers to store larger amounts of water. Keep in mind that bottled water from commercial manufacturers is not made for long-term storage, so those containers may leak over time. Water that sits for a while may also taste different, but it will not go bad if stored in sterilized containers. Be sure to observe any expiration dates printed on bottles of store-bought water and replace the water in your own containers every six months.