

## Keep Water Safe During a Hurricane

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In times of a disaster, humans cannot go without water for more than a few days. During times of a disaster it is possible drinking water supplies can become contaminated. Besides for drinking usage, water is also needed for food preparation and personal hygiene.

### ***How much water should I store?***

It is recommended to store between 1 to 1.5 gallons per day for each person. A minimum of a three-day supply is suggested. Increase storage amount if there are children, sick people, nursing mothers or pets in the household.

### ***Steps to store water:***

1. Sanitize food grade plastic or glass containers. Use containers that are easy to clean. Avoid using milk containers as bacteria can grow quickly in them.
2. Wash and clean each container with soap and water, inside and out.
3. Sanitize each container with a solution of 1 tsp of non-scented household bleach per quart of water.
4. Rinse thoroughly with clean water.
5. Label container with 'Drinking Water' and date of storage.
6. Store in dark, cool and dry place to prevent direct heat or light.

It is not necessary to chemically disinfect drinking water from a public supply unless an emergency boil water notice has been issued. Even though properly stored public supply water has an indefinite shelf life, it should be replaced every 6 to 12 months for quality taste. If the water comes from a private well, spring or untreated source, purify before storage to kill any bacteria.

Use water from open containers within 2 days, if possible.

### **Reference:**

Preparing and Storing an Emergency Safe Drinking Water Supply  
<http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/pdf/SS/SS43900.pdf>

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