

Emergency water storage

ACTION CHECKLIST

Store at least one gallon of water per person per day for three days; aim for two weeks if practical. Allow more for heat, illness, pregnancy and pets. Use commercially bottled water or clean food-grade containers, and keep it cool and away from chemicals.

[] Calculate needs

Count people and days and add water for pets and extra needs.

[] Choose containers

Use commercially bottled water or food-grade containers intended for water.

[] Label and store

Mark fill dates and store away from sunlight, fuel and cleaning products.

[] Rotate supplies

Follow bottled-water dates and replace self-filled stored water every six months.

WATCH FOR

Do not reuse containers that held toxic substances, even after washing.

IF HELP IS UNAVAILABLE

Calculate the household quantity on paper and store smaller containers if lifting a large container is difficult. Keep one portable supply ready. Divide storage between safe places so damage to one container does not lose all the household water.

Updated 2026-10-02 | Civilian educational guidance. Seek qualified help when reachable and safe; do not delay immediate protective action.

Full guide: <https://ospreyzero.com/preparedness/water-storage/>

Emergency water storage · official guidance