

WATER FOR EMERGENCIES

The next Bay Area earthquake or other emergency could leave you without running water for a week or more. Do you have an emergency water supply to hold you over until the water starts flowing again?



Storing an Emergency Water Supply:

Store at least 2 gallons of water per person, per day and prepare for a minimum of 3-7 days. If you have pets, prepare for their needs too.



Alternative:

Bottled water you buy at the store may be stored as an alternative to tap water. Replace the bottled water when it reaches its expiration date.



Create an Emergency Water Supply Using Tap Water



Flush the tap for one minute. This will ensure that any residual metals have been flushed from the home plumbing and that you are getting chlorinated water from the main.



1

Add 1/4 teaspoon (8 drops) of **chlorine bleach** for each gallon the container holds. Do not use scented, color safe, laundry bleach, powdered bleach, or swimming pool chlorine - these contain additional chemicals that are poisonous.



2

Fill the container with tap water leaving as little headspace as possible.



3

Cap the container in a **black garbage** bag and close. This controls dust and prevents algal growth.



4

Mark the **date** you filled the container on a piece of tape and attach it to the bag. This will allow you to know when it is time to change the water you have stored. Replace containers every six months.



5

The filled water containers should be **stored** in a cool, dark place and should not be exposed to sunlight or fumes of petroleum products and pesticides/herbicides. Remember to check the containers periodically to ensure that the plastic has not cracked or developed leaks. If the containers have cracked or are leaking, replace them.



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