

Storing Water

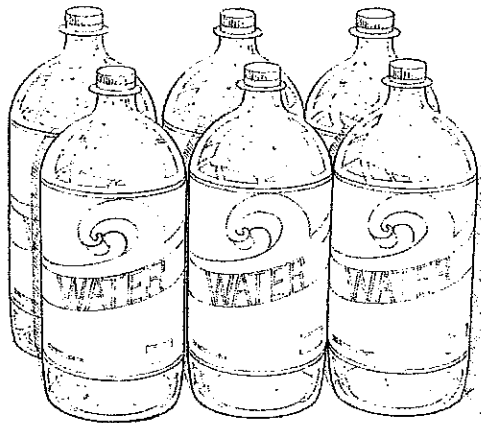
Enjoy peace of mind. SDART preparing today.

Preventing thirst after a disaster

Water is essential for survival. The ground trembling and shaking caused by earthquakes can crack or break the lines that bring fresh water to your house. You may have to rely for three days or more on the water you have stored.

How much water should I store?

Three (3) gallons for each person in your household is the minimum amount required to take care of drinking, cooking, and hygiene needs for the first 72 hours of a disaster.



Which containers are good?

Plastic containers with a screw-cap lid, such as two-liter soda pop bottles or food-grade plastic jugs, work great.

If you use two-liter soda pop bottles, plan to store at least six (6) of these for each person in your household.

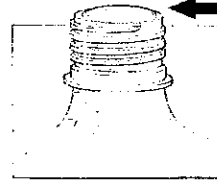
Do not use glass bottles or old bleach bottles (or any container that has held a toxic substance). Glass breaks too easily. The plastic of old bleach bottles contains substances that, over time, get into the water and make it unfit for drinking.

Avoid the use of plastic milk jugs. They are difficult to seal tightly, and their plastic becomes very fragile and brittle over time.

✓ Storing water



1. Choose containers that have a tight-fitting screw-cap lid. Two-liter pop bottles are a great choice.



2. Thoroughly rinse out the container with water, and **fill it to the very top** of the container. For extra safety, thoroughly rinse the container with a weak solution of liquid chlorine bleach (8-10 drops in two cups water). Empty this solution out and fill the container right to the top with fresh water.

3. Seal the container tightly.

4. Label it "drinking water" and date it.

5. Store it in a cool, dark place. Examples:

- under the bed
- in the corner of closets
- behind the sofa

Hint: To make it easy to find many places to put your water, think about this activity as a priority rather than an inconvenience.

Can I improve the taste of stored water?

Stored water will taste better if you put oxygen back into it by pouring the water back and forth between two clean containers several times.

Is adding liquid bleach recommended?

In March, 1994, the Food and Drug Administration and the Environmental Protection Agency stated:

- Tap water does not need anything added to it before it is stored because it has already been chemically treated.
- Commercially purchased water does not need anything added to it. Keep it in its original, sealed container.