THE LITIMATE GUIDE TO STORING WATER FOR A CRISIS

SIMPLE TIPS AND TRICKS EVERY



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Water Storage Options

Water is an entirely different ballgame when it comes to emergency storage. It is so important, but so darn space consuming! There are some options to help you make storing water a little easier. However, it will depend a great deal on where you live and how much space you have available in your home and on your property.

At the absolute bare minimum, you will need 30 gallons of water per person for a 30-day supply. If you are still leaning towards buying cases of bottled water, you need to understand just how much water you are talking about and then the

subsequent trash you will produce at a time when there are no sanitation services. Consider this; a single standard bottle of water contains about 16.9 ounces of water. Each person needs a gallon of water a day, which equals about 8 bottles of water. There are 24 bottles in a case so for three people, you would need a case of



water per day. Imagine all of the water bottles you will have lying around!

Consider this instead; have a stack of water bottles on hand for a quick, clean drink and to pack on expeditions, but have another bulk supply of water stored for your daily use. Check out some of the options below that you can use to store large amounts of water.

Rain Barrels

These are a viable option that people with very little space in their yard. The best part about using a rain barrel is the water is absolutely free! You will need to check with your local city hall about whether or not you are allowed to collect



rainwater. As ridiculous as it may sound, some cities actually forbid residents from collecting rainwater. If you are free to use one, you have a couple of different options to obtaining a rain barrel. You can make one yourself or buy one at your local home improvement store. You can pay upwards of \$100 for a

ready-made barrel or you can make one for about \$10. Check with local restaurants and ask if you can purchase a foodgrade barrel. You can also check with places that only sell these barrels. Prices will vary. You can pick up the few things you need to make the spout from your local hardware store as well. Place the barrels at the corners of your home's roof to catch as much water as possible. Each barrel holds 50 gallons of water. Store several if possible. Once the barrels are full, seal them with a lid and place them in a shed or other dark space to keep them from getting hot and encouraging mold growth. You can also use your tap to fill the barrels before storing away.

These are a beneficial tool and will ensure that as long as it rains, you will always have water available. They can be left in place under the roof if you are using the water regularly.

Cisterns

If you own property, a large cistern is an ideal water storage method. You can store hundreds of gallons of water in a single cistern. There are a number of sizes available. You can store the cistern underground or up high on a hill to take advantage of gravity. If you choose to bury the cistern, you will need to have a hand pump available to pump the water out. You can create a rainwater catchment system that will replenish the water in the cistern. There are visible

gauges that will tell you how much water is in the vessel so you will know when it is time to start looking for more water. You can buy these used for a few hundred dollars. However, it is important you do not use any vessels that were once used to hold fertilizers or pesticides.

Reusable Containers

You can use containers that hold anywhere from 3 to 5 gallons of water. These are sometimes referred to as jerry cans and look like a gas can, but they are blue. Blue indicates water. Never use an old gas can to carry water. Containers that are specially designed to fit one on top of another are excellent options for building a good supply of water in your food storage area. The blocks fit tightly together. You can choose to start with 6 blocks and build it up to 24 as your finances allow. Each block also has a handle that makes them easy to carry around should you need to refill the container. Check into either buying or building a frame to make these stacking containers a little more steady.

Swimming Pools/Hot Tubs

If you have a large swimming pool in the backyard, keep it filled. This is an excellent water supply system. It is important to point out that FEMA will tell you not to drink the water from your pool because of the chemicals used to keep the pool cleaned. The chlorine used to clean and treat the water isn't your issue. The stabilizer is what can cause problems for those who drink the pool water regularly.

Most pools have a chlorine level up to 5ppm. Drinking water should have no more than 4ppm. If the power is out and the filter is off on the pool, the chlorine will evaporate in a matter of days, leaving very little if any in the water. This allows algae to grow. If you do not have any other water, you can drink the water from your swimming pool. However, you need to boil it and if you have it, run it

through a filter.

This also applies to the 400 gallons or so of water in your hot tub. When you are desperate, this much water is too good to pass up. Be smart about it and treat it appropriately and you will be fine. If you are still hesitant about drinking the water, you could still use it to bathe with, wash dishes and water your survival garden.

Hot Water Heater

At any given time, your water heater is full. When things go south, you will always have at least 30-50 gallons of water in your water heater. If your water heater is bigger, you are in luck. As with any water, it is important you go through the process of boiling the water before drinking. There is sediment at the bottom of the tank that could make your water dangerous. In most situations, it would be okay, but there is no need to take a risk. You cannot afford to have an upset stomach that could leave you dehydrated. You need to shut the water tank off immediately following a storm. You don't want the tank filling with water from your main city source if it has been contaminated.

On a side note, do not get carried away in your search for water hiding in your house. Stay out of the toilet! Toilet water is not safe to drink. The water in the tank may have chemicals in it from various cleaning products. You cannot remove chemicals by boiling or filtering the water. This applies to the water in your radiator if you have one. Water in a water bed is not safe to drink either. However, you could use that water to clean dishes and give yourself a sponge bath.

Catching Rain Water

Be prepared to catch rain water if you are lucky enough to have it fall from the sky. Put out every pot and pan you have to collect as much water as possible. When one pot gets full, dump it in the tub and put it back out for more. If you

have the jerry cans or other water containers, you could pour the water from the pot into the containers for storage. Don't be afraid to use the kids' swimming pool, buckets and anything else that holds water. There is something called a water BOB. Basically, it is a plastic liner placed in the bathtub. Some preppers love it, but others fail to see why a plastic liner in a tub really helps. You could just fill the tub. If you have a leaky tub, then spend the few dollars on one of these handy devices.

Ponds

Drinking pond water is probably at the very bottom of anybody's list of water sources. However, if it is all you have, you must make do. You can clean the



water to make it safe to drink. Try and get the water that has some kind of movement to it. Ideally, you will want to put your container into the middle of the pond. You don't want to drag the bottom and you

don't want the slime on the top. It will probably stink and it will probably be green and slimy, but put it through a filter a few times and then boil it. Throw in a few drops of bleach for good measure to help remove the stagnant smell.

If you have a backyard pond, make sure you have a filter in it to keep it as clean as possible. If your pond is large enough to sustain fish, throw some in. They will help keep down algae and keep the mosquitoes at bay. Fish in your pond also provide a food source. You would have food and water in one! You could also

add a fountain in the middle of the pond to help keep the water circulating. Get creative and you will be amazed at what you can build.

Self-Bottling Tips

You want to be economical and you are thinking to yourself, "Why buy water when I have an endless supply right now?" You have a good point. You can certainly bottle your own water and save yourself a great deal of money. There are some key things you need to know about bottling your own water to store in your emergency survival storage.

- Do not use old milk jugs. No matter how tempted you are, those containers are not meant for long term storage. They will leak over time.
 There is also milk proteins inside the plastic that are next to impossible to remove.
- 2-liter pop bottles are ideal containers. Rinse thoroughly with a drop of bleach and refill with water.
- Juice bottles are also made with a sturdier plastic and are ideal for water storage.
- Do not use old bleach bottles or plastics that have held toxic substances.
 It isn't worth the risk.
- Only use plastics that are BPA free—It has been discovered that plastics with BPA slowly leech the chemical into the water making it unsafe to drink.
- Look for plastic bottles that have the number 2 inside the recycling symbol—this means the bottles are made of a sturdy plastic that will hold up.

Now, some people will add a drop of bleach to the water before setting it in the storage. You can do this if you want, but in most cases, if you are using city water, it is already treated with chlorine. Technically, it would be safe to draw right from the tap and store on the shelf. It is really a matter of personal

preference.

You will want to date each bottle as you put it on the shelf. Water should only be stored for 6 months. If you don't use it by then, use it to water the garden and refill it. Put a new date on the bottle. If you have expired water sitting on the shelf when things go sideways, you can still use it for hygiene purposes. Technically, boiling the water or adding a water purification tablet would make it safe again as well.

Purifying the Water

All water needs to be purified before drinking. **All** of it. The only exception is the bottled water that has been sealed and is within its use by date. There are a number of different ways you can go about making the water you have collected safe to drink. Again, personal preference and availability play a huge role in how you decide to purify your water.

Let's talk about purification and filtration.

Purification-Cleaning the water of any bacteria and viruses that are invisible to the naked eye. Purification is the removal of harmful things that can make you extremely sick.

Filtration-This removes things you can see as well bacteria. Filters do NOT clean out viruses. Filters are often used to make water taste better.

Filters

You can run your water through a filter that removes bacteria and some debris. Look for a system that guarantees 99.9 percent of all dangerous particles will be caught in the filter. It is also cost-efficient to look for a filtration system that can process a great deal of water before a new filter needs to be put in. There are portable filters that can be stored in a bug out bag if you are going to be on the move at some point. A number of solar filters are also available. If you are going to be sticking around at home, you could set your solar filter up on the back porch to ensure you have a steady supply of clean drinking water.

Water Purification Tablets



Chemical treatment of water is one way to purify the water. The tablets take about 30 minutes to work and remove harmful bacteria and viruses from water. Some of these tablets can leave the water tasting like chlorine. If this is an issue, you can run the water through a filter to make it look, smell and taste a little better. Leaving it exposed to air will also help aerate the water and remove the chlorine smell. It is always a good idea to have several bottles of these tablets on hand in your food and water

storage. However, they can get a little costly. Each tablet will typically purify a single gallon of water. Do the math to determine how many tablets you need to last your family a month.

Boiling

Boiling is often the best way to go. You can boil water as you need it if you have a steady supply of fuel. Boiling purifies the water. There may still be visible floaties in the water, but the water would technically be safe to drink. Run it through a charcoal filter to get rid of any extras that you would rather not have. If you don't have charcoal, a piece of cotton cloth or even a bandana would work.

An important note about boiling your water; you only need to heat the water until you see the first signs of boiling. Turn it off as soon as you see those bubbles. Boiling your water for 10 minutes does nothing to improve the safety of the water. It only wastes your water by evaporating it. The second water reaches the boiling point, all pathogens are killed. Boiling water any longer than that is overkill. You can't kill them twice or three times.

lodine

Some people will add a few drops of iodine to the water to purify it. This is okay, but if you or somebody in your family has a shellfish allergy, you will have an allergy to iodine. Iodine tablets are an option or you can buy bottles of iodine to keep with your water stores. Iodine must be stored out of the sunlight. It should be in a dark bottle. One of the benefits to using iodine over bleach is the fact that it kills Giardia lamblia more effectively than bleach. You will want to keep a lot of iodine on hand (it can also be used as a medical remedy.) It takes 20 drops of iodine to purify a gallon of water. If the water is cloudy, like it came from a water source outside, you will need to double that number.

Bleach

Bleach is probably one of the most common methods preppers use to purify water. It is safe in small amounts. It only requires a single drop of water to purify water. However, bleach isn't something you can store long term. It starts to lose its potency after 6 months. Bleach does not kill 100 percent of viruses and bacteria in the water. You will need 8 drops to purify one gallon of water. Add the bleach, swirl it around and then let the water sit uncovered for 30 minutes before drinking or putting the lid on if using bleach to purify water for storage. Only use plain, old unscented bleach. The stuff that smells like flowers isn't safe for you to use.

Charcoal

You can store charcoal in your emergency food preps to use as a makeshift water filter. Charcoal is fairly inexpensive. You can construct a water filter by using a little charcoal, sand, rocks and leaves. It may sound primitive, but it works to remove a great deal of the impurities in water that can make you very sick. Use an old water bottle or soda bottle to you're your filter. Cut off the bottom, turn it upside down and add a layer of charcoal. Add a layer of rocks on

top of the charcoal topped by a layer of sand. If there are greens around like dandelions that have not been sprayed with pesticides, put those on the top. Place a bandana over the removed bottom and pour your water through. You have a homemade water filter just like that. Charcoal is the main component in most water filtration systems. Those filters you use for your fish tank could even be used to clean your drinking water. If you are out of charcoal, you can use the remnants of a campfire as long as you know the wood was not painted or treated before being burned.