

Water checklist: how much, and how to keep it

Step 1 of
8

1. Your number

_____ people × _____ days × 1 gallon = _____ gallons

Very hot weather? Water needs can double. Children, nursing mothers and people who are sick may need more. Add what your pets drink.

People	3 days	14 days
1	3	14
2	6	28
4	12	56
6	18	84

Gallons at 1 gallon per person per day. Example math, not an official target.

The rule

Store at least one gallon of water per person, per day, for several days. It covers drinking and basic sanitation.

Source: Ready.gov

2. Store it safely

- ☐ Bottled water: keep it sealed, in its original container, somewhere cool and dark.
- ☐ Your own containers: use food-grade containers.
- ☐ Wash containers with dish soap.
- ☐ Sanitize with 1 teaspoon of unscented liquid household bleach per quart of water.
- ☐ Write the fill date on every container.

3. Rotate it

Water that was not commercially bottled should be replaced every six months. Use the oldest water first.

Container / location	Filled on	Replace by

4. If in doubt, boil

- ☐ Bring water to a rolling boil for 1 minute (3 minutes above 6,500 feet).
- ☐ Let it cool before drinking.

Sources: Ready.gov (ready.gov/water) · CDC, Emergency water supply preparation (cdc.gov)

General information only, not professional safety, medical or legal advice. Follow guidance from your local authorities.

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