

# INCLUDE WATER

in your emergency kit



[www.regionalh2o.org/personal-preparedness](http://www.regionalh2o.org/personal-preparedness)

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# Storing an emergency water supply is simple

Your emergency water supply can consist of bottled water that you buy from a store, or you can fill your own containers. If you buy bottled water, be sure to keep it in its original container and do not open it until you need to use it.

If you use your own container, make sure that it has a tight seal, is made of food-grade plastic or steel designed to hold water, and is properly sanitized before you fill it with tap water.

## Sanitizing your container

1. Use dish soap and clean water to wash your container and its cap thoroughly.
2. Rinse your container well with clean water.
3. Mix one teaspoon of unscented liquid household chlorine bleach with four cups of water.
4. Pour the bleach water mixture into your container, replace the cap, and tighten.
5. Vigorously shake your container for 30 seconds, making sure all of the surfaces are covered.
6. Pour out the bleach water and let your empty container air dry.

## Filling your sanitized container

1. Fill your container to the very top — be careful not to touch the opening with your hands or the faucet as this might contaminate your water or container.
2. This step varies slightly depending on where your water comes from:

from a well or other untreated source



*you will need to add 1/8 teaspoon of bleach per gallon*

from a water provider, like a city



*you do not need to add bleach to your water because it is already treated*

3. Place the cap back on. Be careful not to touch the bottom or inside of the cap as you place it on the container, and make sure it is on snugly.
4. Label and date your container so that you know when you filled it.

The Regional Water Providers Consortium is a collaborative and coordinating organization that works to improve the planning and management of municipal water supplies in the greater Portland, OR metropolitan region. Find out more about the Consortium, its members, and its work in emergency preparedness, water conservation, and regional coordination at [www.regionalh2o.org](http://www.regionalh2o.org).

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## WATER STORAGE DO'S & DON'TS

**DO** buy bottled water from a store or use your own container to store water

**DO** use food grade containers like those found at most camping or outdoor stores or two-liter soda bottles

**DON'T** use containers that are made of glass, jugs that previously held milk or juice, or containers that were used for chemicals or bleach

**DO** change out your water about every 6 months (it won't go bad, so if you need it in an emergency and it's older than six months go ahead and use it)

**DO** store as much water as you can (if needed, start small and build up your supply)

**DO** store your water in a cool, dark location (if possible)



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