



In an emergency, access to clean, safe drinking water becomes of the utmost importance. For storage of emergency water the easiest is commercially bottled water. Unless the bottle is punctured or opened, the water will be safe to drink. Water does not have an expiration date.

If you wish to store tap water, clear plastic soda bottles work best. Do not use milk jugs or fruit juice containers. The proteins and sugars from milk and juice cannot be removed from the containers. This provides conditions where bacteria can grow in the stored water.

### Preparing Used Bottles

- Wash bottles thoroughly with dish soap and rinse completely.
- Make up a sanitizing solution by mixing 1 tsp non-scented chlorine bleach to one quart of water.
- Rinse the bottles with the sanitizing solution making certain that the sanitizing solution touches all of the interior of the bottle.
- Rinse the bottles with clean water.
- Fill bottles with your city's tap water. Most cities chlorinate their water, so no additional disinfection is necessary. If you received water from a private well or non-chlorinated source, add two drops for each quart or liter of water.

Prior to using any stored water, it is a good idea to aerate the water by shaking it for a few seconds. This helps the water taste better and will remove any volatile organic compounds that might have been dissolved from the storage container. First pour out enough water to create at least a two inch air pocket in the bottle, tighten the cap and vigorously shake the bottle for 30 seconds.

Use the water, which you stored prior to the emergency, for drinking purposes only. There will be a need for a large quantity of water for sanitation during an emergency. Sanitation water can typically be of slightly lower quality than your drinking water. Because you cannot store sufficient water for both drinking and sanitation, have a plan for treating sanitation water yourself. The following sections will provide information on how to treat water for this purpose.

Store