Water Storage Chart & Calculator

How to Store, Treat, and Rotate Water for Long-Term Safety

Disinfection Using Unscented Household Bleach

Bleach Strength	Drops per Gallon (U.S.)	Notes
6.0% Sodium Hypochlorite	8 drops per gallon	Standard unscented bleach
8.25% Sodium Hypochlorite	6 drops per gallon	Concentrated unscented bleach
	Mix and wait 30 minutes	Aerate water before use

Never use splash-less, scented, or color-safe bleach. Replace bleach yearly.

Household Water Storage Calculator

Household Size	7 Days	14 Days	21 Days (3 Weeks)
1 Person	7 gal	14 gal	21 gal
2 People	14 gal	28 gal	42 gal
4 People	28 gal	56 gal	84 gal
6 People	42 gal	84 gal	126 gal
Add 1 Pet	+1 gal/day	+2 gal/day	+3 gal/day

Formula: # of People × Days × 1 Gallon = Total Gallons Needed

Storage Best Practices

Use opaque, food-grade containers (HDPE #2, labeled “for potable water”). Add the proper bleach dosage (see table above). Store cool, dark, and away from chemicals or fuels. Label with fill date, source, and additives. Rotate every 6–12 months; inspect for leaks or odors. Aerate before drinking to restore taste. Treat again (filter/boil/chlorinate) if in doubt.

Storage Environment Guidelines

Condition	Ideal Range / Practice
Temperature	50–70°F (10–21°C)
Light Exposure	Dark / Opaque Containers Only
Proximity to Chemicals	Keep Separate by at least 10 ft
Placement	Off concrete (use pallet/wood base)
Freezing Climate	Leave 5–10% headspace

Label Example	Filled 11/2025 – City Tap – 8 drops bleach/gal

Emergency Water Sources

Water heater: 40–50 gallons of drinkable water. Bathtub liner (WaterBOB): up to 100 gallons. Toilet tank: only if untreated, chemical-free. Rainwater: always filter + disinfect before drinking. Melting ice: safe if originally potable.

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