



## January's Featured Item: Water

This month's featured item is water. The CDC recommends you store one gallon of water per person (or pet) per day. Not only do you need clean water to drink, but also for hygiene and food preparation. It is possible that the water supply may be cut off or contaminated following a disaster. To avoid consuming questionable water and contracting who knows what, try to make sure you store enough for you and your family to last 3 days.

Both FEMA and CDC recommend purchasing commercially bottled water, in order to prepare the safest and most reliable emergency water supply. Make sure to keep water in its original container and do not open it until it is needed. Also try to store the water in a cool dark place.

If you are looking to prepare your own containers of water, we have compiled a list of things you might need to know all in one place.

- How to prepare your own containers of water:
- Purchase food grade water storage containers.
- These can be bought at surplus or camping supplies stores.
- Before filling the containers with water, make sure to thoroughly clean the containers with soap and water. Then completely rinse out the containers so there is no soap residue left in there.

You can also use two-liter soft drink bottles for water storage. If you choose to use these, here's what you need to know:

- You will need to make a sanitizing solution by adding 1 teaspoon of non-scented household chlorine bleach to a quart of water.
- Mix this solution in the two-liter bottle, and then thoroughly rinse the bottle with clean water.
- You can then fill the bottle with regular tap water.
  - **Note:** if the water you are using for storage comes from a water source that is not treated with chlorine, add two drops of non-scented household chlorine bleach to the water.
  - **Let the water stand for 30 minutes before using it.**
- Tightly close the container. Be careful not to contaminate the cap by touching the inside with your finger.
- Place a date on the outside of the container so you know when the water was filled.
- Make sure to store your water in a dark, cool place.
- You can purchase bottled water at any grocery store.