



How to video script: How to Store Your Own Supply of Emergency Water

One of the most important things that you can do to prepare for an emergency is to have an emergency stash of water.

This is because people can survive for weeks without food, but only a few days without water.

You may be familiar with the recommendation to have a three day supply of food and water. But, here in the Pacific Northwest the general rule is to have one gallon of water per person per day stored in your home to last you 14 days. And, you may need more than that if you have pets or people with special needs.

This is because experts predict that the Pacific Northwest is overdue for a major earthquake, which may severely damage water systems and other infrastructure.

When this occurs, it could take two weeks or longer for emergency supplies to reach our region. This means that we all will need to rely on our own resources until help arrives.

If it sounds like a lot of work, and a lot of water, for something that may not happen in our lifetime, think about it this way, by preparing for the Big One you are also preparing for other types of emergencies.

There are two ways to store your water. The first is to purchase bottled water.

The second is to use your own containers. Don't reuse milk or juice jugs. If you use your own container, you will need to sanitize it before filling it. Here's how:

1. Use dish soap and clean water to thoroughly wash your container and its cap
2. Then rinse well with clean water
3. Mix one teaspoon of unscented liquid household chlorine bleach – not the scented variety - with four cups of water.
4. Then pour the bleach water into your container, replace the cap top, and tighten
5. Vigorously shake it for 30 seconds – making sure that the bleach water covers all surfaces of your container
6. Pour out the bleach water and let your empty container air dry

Now you're ready to fill your sanitized container with water.

1. Step one is to fill your container. Be careful not to touch the opening with your hands or the faucet as this might contaminate your water or container. Make sure it is filled to the very top.
2. Step two varies slightly depending on where your water comes from.

If your water comes from a well or other untreated source, you will need to add bleach to it before capping your container. For each gallon of water, add 1/8 teaspoon of bleach.

If your water comes from a water provider, like your city, you do not need to add bleach because the water is already treated.

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.

3. Label and date your container so that you know when you filled it. Replace your water every 6 months or so – daylight savings time is a good time to remember to do this or rotate it out when you go camping.
4. Store your water in an easy-to-access location that is ideally cool and dark.

For more information on the types of containers to use, where to store your water, and how often to change out your water, visit www.regionalh2o.org . You'll also find printable versions of the instructions covered in this video, and other information and tips to help you get prepared.