

## Where can I find more water? How do I make it safe to drink?

Your home's water heater may be able to provide you with 30-80 gallons of water. Outside, clear flowing water is best, though you will want to treat it for potential bacteria or viruses. You can use a clean cloth to remove particles from water and it is best to let cloudy water settle before use. Do not use flood water. If possible, boil water at a full rolling boil for one minute or three minutes if you are over 5,000 feet in altitude. See FEMA's Food and Water in an Emergency booklet for more information.

### For More Information

#### Emergency water supply preparation

<https://www.cdc.gov/healthywater/emergency/creating-storing-emergency-water-supply.html>

#### Emergency disinfection

<https://www.epa.gov/ground-water-and-drinking-water/emergency-disinfection-drinking-water>

## Getting Prepared Includes More than Storing Water

Know your hazards. Build a kit. Stay informed. Sign up for SMC Alert <https://cmo.smcgov.org/smc-alert>. Also know your Zonehaven evacuation zone at <https://community.zonehaven.com/>.

## About MPC Ready

The MPC Ready organization's mission is to work collaboratively to help build disaster prepared, and climate-change ready, neighborhoods through advocacy, education and training, resources, organization and support.

In a disaster, studies show that our most immediate source of help will be the neighbors living closest to us. Emergency response personnel will be overwhelmed and there won't be nearly enough to go around.

Neighborhood-level disaster preparedness efforts, such as those from MPC Ready, help to meet *major gaps in community-wide disaster preparedness*. These efforts will increase our community's resiliency and hasten recovery following a disaster.

### For More Information

Visit [www.mpcready.org](http://www.mpcready.org). Call 650-380-3028 or email [info@mpcready.org](mailto:info@mpcready.org).

Daniel P. Aldrich. *Building Resilience: Social Capital in Post-Disaster Recovery*.

Kathleen Tierney. *Disasters: A Sociological Approach*.

Amanda Ripley. *The Unthinkable: Who Survives When Disaster Strikes – and Why*. 2008.

Oregon Office of Emergency Management:  
Two Weeks Ready & Central United States Earthquake Consortium: Two Weeks Ready

# Prepare to Stay Hydrated



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# Water is Essential to Life

## Introduction

Typical advice to store three days' worth of emergency supplies is a good start.

However, a major earthquake may impact transportation, utility and other lifelines.

Delivery of assistance and supplies may be difficult or impossible, initially. People will have to count on each other to be safe until professional outside help can arrive.

Experts now recommend that we prepare to be self-sufficient for two weeks.

## How much water do you need?

Store one gallon, per person, per day for ideally 14 days at and least for 3 days. You will need more if your household includes nursing mothers, the elderly, children and pets. Also have what you need to treat additional water.

## Risks to local water system

According to a 2021 article in *The Almanac*, the local municipalities have stored less than a day's worth of emergency water. Most of our area's water comes via the Hetch Hetchy water delivery system, which crosses the Hayward fault. It's possible that this system may be disrupted following an eruption of the Hayward fault.

## Store Water Creatively

People find space by clearing out closets and elevating their beds slightly via bed risers. A product called WaterBrick holds 3.5 gallons per brick and these can fit under raised beds and be stacked outside. Water is heavy, so store what you can lift.

Periodically, local water companies also offer rebates on rain barrels. These can be used to store water for gardening or sanitation, possibly drinking too.

## How to Store Water

Ideally water should be stored in a cool, dark spot. If that is not possible, store it wherever you can. You can buy bottled water or you can use your own sanitized, food-grade plastic or metal container.

Keep bottled water in its original container and do not open it until you need to use it. Bottled water containers are not built for longer-term storage.

If you decide to re-use storage containers, choose two-liter plastic soft drink bottles. The general rule is to follow the best by dates on store bought water and replace water in your own containers every six months.

## How to sanitize containers

Thoroughly clean the bottles with liquid soap and water, and rinse completely. For plastic soft drink bottles, sanitize the bottles too. Add a solution of one teaspoon of unscented liquid household chlorine bleach and one quart of water. Pour the solution into the container, shake it vigorously and make sure that the solution touches all surfaces. After 30 seconds, empty container, thoroughly rinse with clean water. Then, air dry.

Fill your container to the top with regular tap water. If your water utility company treats your tap water with chlorine, you do not need to add anything else to the water to keep it clean. (If using untreated well water, add 1/8 teaspoon of un-scented liquid household chlorine bleach per gallon to the water.) Tightly close the container using the original cap. Do not contaminate the cap by touching the inside of it. Write the date on the outside of the container. Store in a cool dark place.

