



FEMA News Photo

January

SUPPLIES:

- Plastic tote(s) or duffle bag(s)
- 3 days of food, water and cash
- Hand operated can opener
- 2 flashlights with batteries

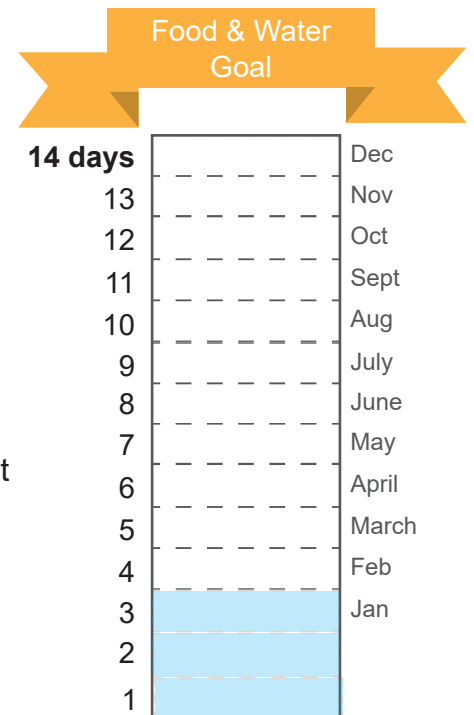
WHERE TO STORE YOUR SUPPLIES

FEMA recommends putting your disaster supplies in one or two easy-to-carry containers such as plastic bins or duffle bags.

Once you have bins or bags, you'll need a place to store your supplies.

The best place to store supplies really depends on the type of home or apartment you live in. A garage, closet or storage room are good options.

One of the best solutions is to keep supplies in a number of areas so that they are always in reach if a disaster strikes.



Purchase bottled water from the store, or buy and fill your own containers.



Store water in a number of different locations such as under the sink, in the garage, a storage shed, or closet.

It's safe to store water in cleaned and disinfected soda bottles, but do not use milk or juice containers for water storage.



Store cash in a safe location for emergency purchases in the event that ATMs are not functioning or banks are closed. The amount of cash should be based on the basic needs of your family, including food, gas and other things you use on a day-to-day basis.



Good food options:
 Canned meats, beans
 Canned fruits, veggies
 Granola bars
 Peanut butter
 Canned juices
 Dried fruits, nuts
 Canned soups, chili

Cleaning and preparing water storage containers

Cleaning a water storage container before use

Before filling with safe water, use these steps to clean and sanitize water storage containers:

- Wash the storage container and rinse completely with water.
- Sanitize the container with a solution made by mixing 1 teaspoon of unscented liquid household chlorine bleach in one quart of water.
- Cover the container tightly and shake it well. Make sure the sanitizing bleach solution touches all inside surfaces of the container.
- Wait at least 30 seconds and then pour the sanitizing solution out of the container.
- Let the empty sanitized container air-dry before use OR rinse the empty container with clean, safe water that is available already.
- Pour clean water into the sanitized container and cover with a tight lid.

Storing safe water in a container

- Label container as “drinking water” and include storage date.
- Keep stored water in a place with a fairly constant cool temperature (50-70° F).
- Do not store water containers in direct sunlight.
- Do not store water containers in areas where toxic substances, such as gasoline or pesticides, are present.

Replacing your emergency water supply

Your emergency water supply should be periodically switched out. The general rule is to follow best by dates on store bought water, and to switch out water in your own containers every six months.

However, unlike food, water does not go bad. So, if you need to access your emergency water supply and you've had it longer than the best by date on the bottle or stored it longer than six months, it will be safe to drink as long as it is treated first.

The most common treatment options are:

- Boiling – bring water to a rolling boil for one full minute.
- Chlorination – add 1/8 teaspoon of unscented liquid chlorine bleach per gallon of water, shake and let stand for 30 minutes.