

## Long-Term Storage for Water

In any survival situation, one of the most basic skills that will keep you alive is knowing which resources are the most important. For human beings, there's nothing more important than water.

Human beings can function for quite a while without food, but take away our water and we do not last long at all. This is the first and most important survival resource you will need. In fact, if you think about situations that occur every day, having the plumbing go out because of a broken water main or a problem in your house is one of the most inconvenient situations imaginable. Imagine that situation citywide and you have some idea of just how brutal conditions can get when people don't have adequate access to water.

There are some basic guidelines you can follow to help you store water successfully and to make certain that you have enough of it on hand.

### Quantity

One of the easiest guidelines to follow with storing water for the long term is to assume that every person is going to need [1-gallon](#) of water every day. This should account for the water they need to brush their teeth, wash up and drink.

You should also keep in mind that this will vary depending upon where you live. If you live somewhere where heat and dryness really aren't issues, 1 gallon should be more than adequate. If you live in a desert state like Arizona or New Mexico, however, you'll find that people will need much more water than that to get by during an average summer day.

The most basic kit should have roughly 3 days of water for each person. If you have a partner and one child, the good news is that each of you should only need roughly 9 gallons of water to make it through that three-day period.

### More Water

For the long-term, you'll want to take into account whether or not your water storage solutions are portable and whether or not it will keep your water safe from contamination. You can purchase large 5-gallon water containers from most discount stores and hardware stores. These are ideal, as they are generally fairly easy to transport.

You can go ahead and fill your container from tap water, as that water has been treated. After you treat it, add around 1/8 of a tablespoon of bleach to the water for each gallon that the container holds. This will kill off anything in the container that might hurt you.

Label the containers clearly so that people know that it is drinking water. Make sure you store it somewhere out of direct light with a cool temperature.

Most guidelines recommend rotating your water supply out every 6 or 12 months. This is a good rule of thumb to follow, though water treated with chlorine and stored properly can last theoretically forever. Remember to never use anything but a dedicated container for storing water. Cleaning out old containers is not a good idea and may lead to serious issues if there are contaminants that get into the water.

<http://www.ready.gov/water>