

Assembling and Storing a Disaster Supply Kit

You can cope best by preparing for disaster before it strikes. One way to prepare is by assembling a Disaster Supply Kit. After disaster strikes, you won't have time to shop or search for supplies. But if you've gathered supplies in advance, you and your family can endure an evacuation or home confinement.

To Prepare Your Kit

1. Review the checklist on the next few pages (from FEMA L-189, ARC 4463, Your Family Disaster Supplies Kit).
2. Gather the supplies from the list.
3. Place the supplies you're apt to need for an evacuation in an easy-to-carry container. These supplies are listed with an asterisk (*).

Water

Store water in plastic containers such as soft drink bottles. Avoid using containers that will decompose or break, such as milk cartons or glass bottles. A normally active person needs to drink at least two quarts of water each day. Hot environments and intense physical activity can double that requirement. Children, nursing mothers, and ill people will need more.

- Store 1 gallon of water per person per day (2 quarts for drinking, 2 quarts for food preparation/sanitation.)*
- Keep at least a 3-day supply of water for each person in your household.

If you have questions about the quality of the water, purify it before drinking. You can heat water to a rolling boil for 1 minute or use commercial purification tablets to purify the water. You can also use household liquid chlorine bleach if it is pure, unscented, 5.25% sodium hypochlorite. To purify water, use the table below as a guide:

Ratios for Purifying Water with Bleach

Water Quantity	Bleach Added
1 Quart	4 Drops
1 Gallon	16 Drops
5 Gallons	1 Teaspoon

Ratios for purifying water with bleach: Water quantity and bleach added

After adding bleach, shake or stir the water container and let it stand 30 minutes before drinking.