

In an emergency situation where regular water service has been interrupted, local authorities may recommend using only bottled water, boiled water, or disinfected water until regular water service is restored. Boil and disinfect water to kill **most** disease-causing microorganisms that may be present in the water. However, boiling or disinfection will not destroy other contaminants, such as heavy metals, salts, and most other chemicals.

**ONLY USE WATER THAT HAS BEEN PROPERLY DISINFECTED FOR DRINKING, COOKING, MAKING ANY PREPARED DRINK, WASHING DISHES OR BRUSHING TEETH.**

- Use **bottled water** or water you have properly prepared and stored as an emergency water supply.
- **Boil water**, if you do not have bottled water. Boiling is sufficient to kill pathogenic bacteria, viruses and protozoa.
  - If water is cloudy, let it settle and filter through a clean cloth, paper towel, or coffee filter.
  - Bring water to a rolling boil for at least one minute.
  - Let water cool naturally and store it in clean containers with covers.
  - To improve the flat taste of boiled water, add one pinch of salt to each quart or liter of water, or pour the water from one clean container to another several times.

**Disinfect water using household bleach**, if you can't boil water. Only use regular, unscented chlorine bleach products that are suitable for disinfection and sanitization as indicated on the label. The label may say that the active ingredient contains 6 or 8.25% of sodium hypochlorite. Do not use scented, color safe, or bleaches with added cleaners.

- Locate a fresh liquid chlorine bleach or liquid chlorine bleach that is stored at room temperatures for less than one year. (Bleach has a shelf life. The bleach will be highly effective for around 6 months and fine for home use for around 9 months. Clorox recommends replacing any bottle of bleach that is over a year old. If you don't smell a bleach odor, it's likely most of the product has decomposed into salt and water.)
- Use the table below as a guide to decide the amount of bleach you should add to the water, for example, 8 drops of 6% bleach, or 6 drops of 8.25% bleach, to each gallon of water. Double the amount of bleach if the water is cloudy, colored, or very cold.
- Stir and let stand for 30 minutes. The water should have a slight chlorine odor. If it doesn't, repeat the dosage and let stand for another 15 minutes before use.
- If the chlorine taste is too strong, pour the water from one clean container to another and let it stand for a few hours before use.

<b>VOLUME OF WATER</b>	<b>6% BLEACH</b>	<b>8.25% BLEACH</b>
1 quart / liter	2 drops	2 drops
1 gallon	8 drops	6 drops
2 gallons	16 drops (1/4 tsp)	12 drops (1/8 tsp)
4 gallons	1/3 teaspoon	1/4 teaspoon
8 gallons	2/3 teaspoon	1/2 teaspoon

**TIP: Don't Store Water In Old Milk Jugs** – It is so tempting and it seems like a good idea at the time, but it could end in disaster. It's hard to wash out the entire milk micro-residue, which means you could end up with harmful bacteria growing in your water.

Ron