READY HOUSE: WATER

QUICK REFERENCE • FRONT • CASCADIA READY RADIO

HOW MUCH WATER

1 gal	3 gal	14 gal
Per person per day: bare minimum	Per person per day: realistic	Per person: 2-week minimum

- Family of four, 2 weeks at 3 gallons a day: **168 gallons**. Count **pets** too.
- More for babies, nursing parents, anyone sick, and hot weather.
- **Never ration drinking water** unless officials tell you to. Cut every other use first.

STORING IT

- **Food-grade containers only.** Never reuse bleach, oil or detergent jugs.
- **Label the fill date** and rotate tap water **every 6 months**. Bottled water follows its printed date.
- Store it **low, against a wall**, out of sun. A gallon weighs **8.34 lb**.
- **Clean a new container:** wash, rinse, swirl 1 tsp bleach in a quart of water for 30 seconds, pour out, air-dry.

WATER YOU ALREADY HAVE

- **Water heater: 30–80 gallons.** Turn off its power or gas, close the cold inlet, open a hot faucet, then drain from the bottom valve.
- **Pipes:** close the main shutoff, open the highest faucet, collect from the lowest.
- **Ice** in the freezer, and the **liquid in canned fruit and vegetables**.

WATER ADVISORIES: KNOW WHICH ONE

ADVISORY	MEANS	DO THIS
Boil Water	Germs, or a pressure loss that could let them in	Boil it. This is the only one boiling fixes.
Do Not Drink	Chemicals (fuel, lead, industrial)	Bottled or safe water only. **Boiling is wrong**, it can concentrate it.
Do Not Use	Contamination so bad touching it is risky	Follow local officials exactly.

When it lifts: run every faucet 5 minutes, run hot lines until fully hot, and toss ice made during the advisory.

From *The Ready House Bible* by Charlie Ramsey, Section 3

MAKING WATER SAFE

READY HOUSE: WATER • BACK

FOUR WAYS TO TREAT WATER, AND THEIR LIMITS

METHOD	HOW	GAP
Boil	Rolling boil 1 min (3 min above 6,500 ft). Cool covered.	None for germs. Doesn't touch chemicals.
Bleach	Unscented: 8 drops/gal (6%) or 6 drops (8.25%). Wait 30 min; should smell faintly of chlorine.	Doesn't kill *Cryptosporidium*.
Filter	Rated **1 micron or smaller**.	Doesn't stop viruses: add bleach after.
UV / sunlight	Clear water only. Sunlight in clear bottles: 6 hrs sun, 2 days cloudy.	Water must be clear first.

CLOUDY WATER FIRST

- Let it **settle 30 minutes**, pour off the clear water, then strain through a cloth or coffee filter.
- Best home combination: **filter, then bleach**. Boiling alone covers all germs.
- Bleach older than about a year loses strength.

NEVER DRINK, EVEN TREATED

- Water that smells of **fuel or chemicals**, or has a **sheen or odd color**.
- No method removes fuel, solvents, pesticides or metals. **Find another source.**

DO THIS NOW

before you need it

TONIGHT

Count the gallons in your house and divide by the people and pets.

THIS WEEKEND

Fill or buy up to 14 gallons per person. Label and date everything.

WHEN YOU'RE READY

Test one way to treat water. Tape the bleach ratio inside a cabinet door.

WATER CHECKLIST

- ☐ Food-grade containers
- ☐ Marker & labels
- ☐ Unscented bleach (under 1 yr)
- ☐ Medicine dropper
- ☐ Filter, 1 micron or smaller
- ☐ Purification tablets
- ☐ Pot & outdoor heat source
- ☐ Coffee filters or cloth
- ☐ Hose for water heater drain
- ☐ Main shutoff located
- ☐ Water for pets
- ☐ Bleach ratio posted



Want the whole plan?

The Ready House Bible by Charlie Ramsey has the full plan, worksheets and checklists for every room of the house. Paperback and Kindle. General preparedness guidance. Always follow local officials and emergency managers.