STEADY HOME HANDBOOKS · BOOK 1

Water Readiness Kit

The printable companion to *The Home Water Storage Handbook*.

- Household Water Worksheet
- Boil and Bleach Chart
- Water Heater Card
- Container Labels
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Print on US Letter paper at 100% size. Print as many copies as your household needs. The safety numbers were checked against EPA and CDC guidance in November 2026.

Household Water Worksheet

Fill it in once, and again whenever your household changes. Chapter 2 explains each row.

HOUSEHOLD WATER WORKSHEET

Row	What to write	Your number
1	People in your home × 1 gallon	gallons per day
2	Extras, in gallons per day (heat, pregnancy, nursing, illness, hard work, medicines)	gallons per day
3	Pets, in gallons per day	gallons per day
4	Daily number (add rows 1, 2 and 3)	gallons per day
5	Daily number × 3, × 14 and × 30. Round each up	3 days, 2 weeks, 30 days
6	My goal (circle one in row 5)	gallons
7	My goal × 8.34	pounds

Water I have now: gallons

My gap (goal minus water I have): gallons

Extras for row 2 (one quart is 0.25 gallon)

Who or when	Add per day
Very hot weather with no air conditioning	1 gallon per person
Pregnancy	1 quart
Nursing	1 quart
Illness with fever, vomiting or diarrhea	1 quart
Hard physical work in heat	Up to 1 quart per hour of work
Medicines or devices that need water	Its own line

Pets for row 3. For a dog under 50 pounds, divide its weight in pounds by 128. For a dog over 50 pounds, use at least 0.63 gallon. A 10-pound cat is 1 cup, or 0.06 gallon.

Boil and Bleach Chart

Tape this inside the cabinet where you keep your bleach, or on the refrigerator.

BOIL: a rolling boil for 1 minute. 3 minutes above 5,000 feet. Cool it in the covered pot.
CLOUDY WATER: let it settle, pour off the clear water and strain it first.

BLEACH DOSE CHART

Use regular, unscented bleach, less than one year old. Read the strength on the label: "sodium hypochlorite ___%." Clear cloudy water first.

Bleach of 5% to 9% (CDC)

Water	Clear water	Cloudy or very cold water
1 quart	2 drops	4 drops
2-liter bottle	4 drops	8 drops
1 gallon	**8 drops**	16 drops
5 gallons	40 drops (1/2 teaspoon)	80 drops (1 teaspoon)

Source: CDC, How to Make Water Safe in an Emergency, page dated Sept. 19, 2024.

By label strength (EPA)

Water	6% bleach	8.25% bleach
1 quart	2 drops	2 drops
1 gallon	**8 drops**	**6 drops**
2 gallons	16 drops	12 drops

Source: EPA, Emergency Disinfection of Drinking Water, updated Feb. 24, 2026. Double the amount if the water is cloudy, colored or very cold.

Weak bleach, 1% (CDC)

Water	Bleach
1 quart	10 drops
1 gallon	40 drops

8 drops per gallon. 6 if the label says 8.25%.
Stir. Wait 30 minutes. It should smell slightly of chlorine.
No smell? Repeat the dose and wait 15 more minutes.

My bleach strength: _____% Bought: _____
My boil time: _____ minutes

Water Heater Card

Fill in the three lines, then tape this card to the tank. Chapter 5 has the full instructions.

Tank size: _____ gallons

Breaker number, or gas control location: _____

Cold intake valve is located: _____

1. Turn off the power at the breaker, or turn the gas control on the heater to OFF.
2. Close the cold water intake valve on the pipe above the tank.
3. Let the tank cool for several hours.
4. Open a hot water faucet anywhere in the home to let air in.
5. Put a shallow pan under the drain valve at the bottom of the tank, or attach a short hose.
6. Open the drain valve.
7. Run off the first cloudy water and save it for flushing.
8. Fill your clean containers once the water runs clear.
9. Close the drain valve.
10. **Refill the tank fully before you restore power or gas.**

Cautions. Tank water can scald, so let it cool first. Never power an empty tank. Do not use a heater that sat in floodwater. If you smell gas, leave the home and call the gas company from outside. A tankless heater holds almost no water.

To refill when service returns: open the main valve and the intake valve. Leave a hot faucet running until the water flows without spitting air. Only then turn the heater back on.

Container Labels

Cut these out and tape one to every container you fill. Face the label outward.

DRINKING WATER

Filled on: _____

Refill by: _____

Source: _____

DRINKING WATER

Filled on: _____

Refill by: _____

Source: _____

DRINKING WATER

Filled on: _____

Refill by: _____

Source: _____

DRINKING WATER

Filled on: _____

Refill by: _____

Source: _____

DRINKING WATER

Filled on: _____

Refill by: _____

Source: _____

DRINKING WATER

Filled on: _____

Refill by: _____

Source: _____

DRINKING WATER

Filled on: _____

Refill by: _____

Source: _____

Rotation Calendar

Tape this inside the closet door. Two refill days and one check day a year.

WATER ROTATION CALENDAR, 2027 TO 2031

Year	March: REFILL clocks spring forward	Labor Day weekend: REFILL	November: CHECK clocks fall back
2027	Sun, March 14 Done: _____	Sept 4 to 6 Done: _____	Sun, Nov 7 Done: _____
2028	Sun, March 12 Done: _____	Sept 2 to 4 Done: _____	Sun, Nov 5 Done: _____
2029	Sun, March 11 Done: _____	Sept 1 to 3 Done: _____	Sun, Nov 4 Done: _____
2030	Sun, March 10 Done: _____	Aug 31 to Sept 2 Done: _____	Sun, Nov 3 Done: _____
2031	Sun, March 9 Done: _____	Aug 30 to Sept 1 Done: _____	Sun, Nov 2 Done: _____

My containers

Container	Where it is	Gallons

Emergency Water Card

Cut along the dashed lines and fold. Keep one copy with your water and one in your wallet.

EMERGENCY WATER CARD: DOSES

- **Boil:** rolling boil for 1 minute. 3 minutes above 5,000 feet.
- **Bleach:** plain, unscented, 5% to 9%, under 1 year old.
- 1 quart: 2 drops. **1 gallon: 8 drops.** 5 gallons: 40 drops (1/2 teaspoon).
- Label says 8.25%: 6 drops per gallon.
- Cloudy or very cold water: double the dose.
- Stir. Wait 30 minutes. It should smell slightly of chlorine. No smell: repeat the dose and wait 15 more minutes.
- **Never treat:** water with a fuel or chemical smell, floodwater, or water under a "do not drink" or "do not use" notice.

Sources: CDC, Sept. 19, 2024. EPA, Feb. 24, 2026.

· · · FOLD HERE · · ·

MY HOME

Water utility and phone: _____

Main shutoff valve is located: _____

Valve type and tool needed: _____

Water heater: size, power or gas, breaker: _____

Household daily number: _____ gallons

Two-week goal / stored now: _____ gallons

Bleach bought on: _____

Neighbor to check on me, phone: _____

My Home's Water

Fill this in once and tape a copy inside the water heater closet.

MY HOME'S WATER

Main shutoff valve is located: _____

Valve type (lever or wheel): _____

Tool needed: _____

Water heater size: _____ gallons

Heater runs on (power or gas): _____

Breaker number: _____

Cold intake valve is located: _____

Lowest faucet in the home: _____

Highest faucet in the home: _____

Number of toilet tanks: _____

Total Layer 2 water: _____ gallons

Days of water for my household: _____ days

Your 7-Day Action Plan

One job a day. Chapter 12 walks through each day.

YOUR 7-DAY ACTION PLAN

DAY 1 **Worksheet and two valves** 30 minutes · Layer 2 ☐ Done	**DAY 2** **Buy** 60 minutes · Layer 1 ☐ Done	**DAY 3** **Clean and fill** 45 minutes · Layer 1 ☐ Done	**DAY 4** **Place and label** 30 minutes · Layer 1 ☐ Done
DAY 5 **Treatment kit** 30 minutes · Layer 3 ☐ Done	**DAY 6** **Household walk-through** 30 minutes · All layers ☐ Done	**DAY 7** **Practice and reminders** 60 minutes · All layers ☐ Done	**One job a day.** **One tick a day.**

Shopping Lists

Each list covers two people at 2026 prices. Tick items as you buy them.

Starter: 3 days, about $30

Item	Quantity	2026 price range
☐ Bottled water, 24-pack of 16.9 oz	2 cases (6.4 gal)	$4 to $8 per case
☐ Regular unscented bleach, 5 to 9%	1 bottle	$3 to $8
☐ Medicine dropper	1	$2 to $10
☐ Basket coffee filters	1 pack of 200	$2 to $9
☐ Marker and tape	From home	No cost

Solid: 2 weeks, about $140

Item	Quantity	2026 price range
☐ Bottled water, 24-pack of 16.9 oz	6 cases (19 gal)	$4 to $8 per case
☐ Rigid 5-gallon food-grade container with spigot	2 (10 gal)	$15 to $40 each
☐ Regular unscented bleach, 5 to 9%	1 bottle	$3 to $8
☐ Medicine dropper	1	$2 to $10
☐ Chlorine dioxide tablets	1 pack of 30	$15 to $20
☐ Basket coffee filters	1 pack of 200	$2 to $9
☐ Propane cylinder, 16 oz, for a stove you own	2	$5 to $8 each

Deep: 30 days, about $500

Item	Quantity	2026 price range
☐ 55-gallon food-grade water barrel	1	$90 to $200
☐ Hand pump rated for drinking water	1	$15 to $30
☐ Bung wrench	1	$8 to $15
☐ Bottled water, 24-pack of 16.9 oz	2 cases (6.4 gal)	$4 to $8 per case
☐ Bleach, dropper and coffee filters	1 each	$7 to $27 for all three
☐ Chlorine dioxide tablets	2 packs of 30	$15 to $20 per pack
☐ Propane cylinders, 16 oz	4-pack	$19 to $25
☐ Portable squeeze or gravity filter	1	$38 to $100
☐ 50-gallon rain barrel	1	$80 to $180
☐ Downspout diverter kit	1	$40 to $85

Medical Water and Contacts

Fill in one row for each device or treatment. Keep this page with your stored water.

MEDICAL WATER AND CONTACTS

Person	Device or treatment	Water it needs (type, amount)	Supplier or clinic phone	Backup if power fails

Doctor: _____

Pharmacy: _____

Dialysis center: _____

Second center: _____

☐ Registered with the electric company ☐ Registered with the water company

Water-Back Checklist

Use this when the official all-clear comes. Your utility's own instructions come first.

Date the notice was lifted: _____

- ☐ Official all-clear confirmed. Utility's instructions read.
- ☐ Cold taps run 5 minutes each, top floor down.
- ☐ Tubs, showers and outdoor spigots flushed.
- ☐ Hot taps run until cool (15 or 30 minutes).
- ☐ Filter cartridges replaced.
- ☐ Refrigerator dispenser flushed 3 to 5 minutes.
- ☐ Old ice dumped. Three new batches dumped. Bin sanitized.
- ☐ Dishwasher run empty on its hottest cycle.
- ☐ Softener regenerated.
- ☐ Coffee maker, humidifier and CPAP emptied and cleaned.
- ☐ Water heater full before power or gas restored.
- ☐ Well disinfected and lab-tested (well owners).
- ☐ Containers sanitized, refilled and dated.
- ☐ Bleach, tablets, cartridges and fuel replaced.
- ☐ Fifteen-minute review done. Worksheet updated.