

EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS



MAKE A PLAN



BUILD A KIT



BE INFORMED

handy household tips on drinking water

BEFORE an Earthquake

- Be prepared to be self-sufficient for at least 72 hours.
- Locate main water line, water heater(s) and shut-off valves and mark with fluorescent paint or tape so can be found in the dark.
- Learn how to operate shut-off valves to water lines, water heater, and how to remove any covers.
- Keep wrenches handy and any other tools needed to remove covers and shut off water lines and water heater.
- Store at least 3 gallons of water per person (1 gallon per person per day).
 - Replace commercially bottled water by the expiration date.
 - Replace water treated with unscented bleach after 6 months.
 - Keep water in all vehicles.
 - Keep extra water on hand for pets.
- Keep unscented chlorine bleach or water purification tablets on hand.
- Do not add coloring/disinfectant products to toilet tank (a source of emergency water).
- Brace, strap, or anchor the water heater.



AFTER an Earthquake

- Shut off main water valve to prevent contamination. Check pipes for leaks/breaks.
- Do not drink, bathe in, or wash anything with tap water until advised it is safe.
- Do not store food or water near household cleaners or contaminants.
- Do not use pool/spa water.
- Do not use toilets or dump waste in drains.
- Check if sewage lines are intact. Plug bathroom sink/drains to prevent backup.
- Do not use food or water that may have been contaminated by untreated water (i.e. broken water/sewer/gas line, flood, etc.).

Emergency drinking WATER sources:

Hot water heaters hold 30-60 gallons of water (turn off electricity or gas to water heater before draining into containers); toilet reservoir tanks; melted ice cubes or juices in canned vegetables; and stored drinking water.

How to DISINFECT WATER for drinking:

1. Strain water through a clean cloth/handkerchief to remove debris/sediment.
2. Then, do **ONE (1)** of the following:
 - Boil water rapidly for 1 minute
 - Add water purification tablets
 - Add unscented chlorine bleach (see table on left)
3. Let stand 30 minutes before using.



Volume of Water	Amount of 6% Bleach to Add*	Amount of 8.25% Bleach to Add*
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 (tsp.)
8-gallons	2/3 teaspoon	1/2 teaspoon (tsp.)

* Bleach may contain either 6% or 8.25% sodium hypochlorite



Other Emergency References:

Preparedness: readysandiego.org
Emergency News: sdcountyemergency.com
Recovery: sdcountyrecovery.com
Essential Community Services Information: 211