



PREPARED HOME SOLUTIONS

HOUSEHOLD EMERGENCY WATER PLAN & WORKSHEET

Build a practical, layered emergency-water plan for your household.

THE TWO TARGETS

1 gallon per person per day is an acceptable emergency-water baseline. It is a sound level to establish first. **About 3 gallons per person per day is the PHS stretch goal** when space, weight, budget, and circumstances allow. The stretch goal provides more flexibility for drinking, cooking, basic hygiene, cleaning, sanitation, and unexpected needs. You do not need to reach the stretch goal before your water plan has value.

1. MY HOUSEHOLD

Adults _____	Children _____	Total people _____
Pets _____	Other animals/livestock _____	Planning period _____ days

Special household considerations (medical needs, pregnancy/nursing, infant formula, mobility, hot climate, heavy activity, etc.):

2. CALCULATE MY WATER TARGETS

Minimum emergency baseline

Total people _____ × planning days _____ × **1 gallon** = _____ gallons

This is a valid emergency-water goal. Establish this level first if you are starting from little or no stored water.

PHS stretch goal

Total people _____ × planning days _____ × **3 gallons** = _____ gallons

This is an optional practical target - not a replacement for the 1-gallon baseline and not a government minimum.

Additional water allowance I want to include

Pets / animals	_____ gal
Medical / special needs	_____ gal
Heat / heavy activity	_____ gal
Other	_____ gal

HOW MUCH EXTRA SHOULD I PLAN?

Pets & animals: Needs vary by species, size, diet, health, activity, and temperature. When possible, learn or measure normal daily consumption and add an emergency buffer.

Medical & special needs: Include water needed for medications, medical equipment, infant formula, special diets, wound/medical care, or other household-specific needs. Follow medical or device instructions when applicable.

Heat & heavy activity: Hot conditions and strenuous activity can increase drinking-water needs. If these conditions are likely, increase your reserve rather than relying only on the basic calculation.

Other: Add water for circumstances unique to your household.

MY HOUSEHOLD GOAL

Minimum baseline: _____ gallons **Stretch goal:** _____ gallons

My realistic next goal: _____ gallons

Build in stages. First establish a useful emergency reserve, then increase it as space, budget, weight limits, and risks allow.



WHAT WATER DO I ALREADY HAVE?

Inventory the safe water already available to your household. Include commercially bottled water and appropriately stored household water.

Water supply	Container	Qty.	Total gal.	Filled / bought	Rotate / replace	Location

3. MY CURRENT WATER POSITION

Total potable water currently stored	_____ gallons
My minimum baseline	_____ gallons
My PHS stretch goal	_____ gallons
Gap to my minimum baseline	_____ gallons
Gap to my stretch goal	_____ gallons

4. CAN WE ACTUALLY USE WHAT WE STORE?

- | | |
|---|--|
| ■ Containers are food-grade / appropriate for water storage | ■ Stored water is protected from contamination |
| ■ Containers are labeled and dated | ■ Water is accessible during a power outage |
| ■ I have a practical way to dispense large containers | ■ Someone can safely access or move each container |
| ■ I have a rotation / replacement system | ■ Treated and untreated water can be kept separate |

WATER IS HEAVY

Water alone weighs about **8.34 lb per gallon**. 5 gallons ≈ 42 lb | 7 gallons ≈ 58 lb | 55 gallons ≈ 459 lb, before container weight. Consider floors, shelving, lifting, access, and dispensing.

Storage improvements I need to make:

Planning note: This worksheet is a planning tool, not a water-treatment instruction manual. Use the PHS Emergency Water Preparedness Knowledge Hub and applicable public-health guidance for detailed treatment instructions.



WHERE WILL MORE WATER COME FROM?

Stored water is the first layer, but it is finite. Identify realistic additional sources before an emergency and think through collection, transportation, and contamination risks.

DO NOT ASSUME THE TAP WILL ALWAYS BE AVAILABLE

Municipal water can be interrupted or become unsafe because of power outages, water-main breaks, loss of system pressure, treatment-system problems, flooding, contamination, or other emergencies. A household plan should include stored potable water and a plan for what you will do if tap water is unavailable or subject to a boil-water or do-not-use advisory. Private wells can also become inaccessible when pumps lose power or equipment is damaged.

5. IF MY NORMAL TAP WATER IS UNAVAILABLE OR UNSAFE, WHERE WILL MY NEXT WATER COME FROM?

Source 1

Possible source	
Location / access	
How I will collect it	
How I will transport it	
Likely contamination concerns	

Source 2

Possible source	
Location / access	
How I will collect it	
How I will transport it	
Likely contamination concerns	

Source 3

Possible source	
Location / access	
How I will collect it	
How I will transport it	
Likely contamination concerns	

Possible sources to consider - only when appropriate to your location and emergency:

- | | |
|---|--|
| ☐ Emergency / community water distribution | ☐ Functioning private well |
| ☐ Appropriate natural water source | ☐ Additional commercially bottled water |
| ☐ Other household / property source | ☐ Other: _____ |

AVAILABLE WATER IS NOT NECESSARILY SAFE WATER

Consider the source and potential biological or chemical contamination before choosing a treatment method. Water suspected of contamination by fuel, toxic chemicals, radioactive materials, or similar hazards should not be assumed safe after ordinary filtering, boiling, or disinfection.



COLLECTING, TRANSPORTING & TREATING WATER

6. COLLECTION & TRANSPORT

- ☐ Clean collection containers
- ☐ Funnel
- ☐ Portable water containers
- ☐ Method to keep dirty and clean equipment separate
- ☐ Water-transfer container / bucket
- ☐ Hose / tubing / pump if appropriate
- ☐ Clean treated-water containers
- ☐ Other: _____

Maximum amount I can realistically collect or transport at one time: _____ gallons

Collection / transportation gap I need to fix:

7. FILTRATION / PURIFICATION EQUIPMENT

Equipment / model	Filter or purifier?	What it addresses	What it does NOT address

Replacement filters / maintenance supplies on hand? ☐ Yes ☐ No Next service / replacement: _____

8. DISINFECTION CAPABILITY

- ☐ Boiling capability
- ☐ Chlorine dioxide treatment
- ☐ Other verified method: _____
- ☐ Unscented household bleach suitable for emergency water disinfection
- ☐ UV treatment
- ☐ I know where the current instructions are

Use the PHS Emergency Water Disinfection Guide and current public-health guidance for specific treatment procedures and dosing. Do not rely on memory or generic internet ratios.

REMEMBER THE LIMITS

Filtering, purifying, disinfecting, and boiling are not interchangeable. No ordinary emergency treatment method should be assumed to make water with fuel, toxic chemicals, radioactive contamination, or unknown hazardous contamination safe.



MY EMERGENCY BOILING PLAN

A boil-water advisory might happen while every household utility still works - or during a prolonged disaster with no grid power or normal fuel supply. Plan the entire boiling system before you need it.

PLAN THE WHOLE SYSTEM

Water + heat source + fuel/energy + appropriate vessel + safe operating location + safe handling + cooling + clean storage. Owning a camp stove or having firewood does not by itself create a complete boiling capability.

9. IF I HAD TO BOIL WATER TODAY, HOW WOULD I DO IT?

Normal method (utilities available)	
Method during a power outage	
Backup / austere method	
Fuel or energy required	
Fuel currently available	
Appropriate boiling vessel	
Pot holders / heat-safe handling equipment	
Safe operating location	
Clean container for cooled / treated water	

Examples of possible heat sources: a functioning household stove, an appropriate propane/camp stove, suitable outdoor cooking equipment, wood stove where appropriate, or an appropriately managed outdoor fire. Use only methods that are safe and suitable for the conditions.

BURN, FIRE & CARBON-MONOXIDE SAFETY

Use each appliance only as its manufacturer intends. Outdoor-only combustion appliances - including many camp stoves, grills, and fuel-burning cookers - must not be used indoors or in enclosed spaces because of carbon-monoxide and fire hazards. For an appropriate outdoor fire or other emergency heat source, use a stable cooking setup and a vessel suitable for that heat source. Protect against burns, spills, and scalding. **After boiling for the required time, allow the water to cool to a safe temperature before drinking, transferring, or handling it.** Keep hot water, hot vessels, and heat sources away from children and pets.

- | | |
|---|---|
| ☐ My normal boiling method is workable | ☐ I have a power-outage boiling method |
| ☐ I have a backup / austere option | ☐ I have adequate fuel or energy |
| ☐ I have an appropriate boiling vessel | ☐ I have safe handling equipment |
| ☐ I know where the method can be operated safely | ☐ I have clean post-treatment storage |

Boiling / treatment capability gaps I need to fix:



MY HOUSEHOLD EMERGENCY WATER PLAN

Use this page as the quick-reference summary of the plan you built on the previous pages.

10. MY PLAN AT A GLANCE

Water stored now	_____ gallons
Minimum baseline	_____ gallons
PHS stretch goal	_____ gallons
My next storage goal	_____ gallons
Primary stored-water location	
Primary additional water source	
Backup water source	
Primary treatment method	
Backup treatment method	
Boiling method	
Collection / transport method	

11. SYSTEM DEPENDENCIES

- Well requires electricity
- Treatment equipment requires electricity
- Treatment equipment requires replacement filters
- Other dependency: _____
- RO system depends on water pressure
- Treatment equipment requires batteries
- Boiling requires stored fuel
- I have a backup for critical dependencies

My plan if those systems fail:

12. MY NEXT ACTIONS

#	Action	Target date	Complete
1			■
2			■
3			■
4			■
5			■

13. REVIEW & MAINTAIN

Water plan last reviewed	
Stored water next rotation / check	
Filters / treatment supplies next inspection	
Household plan next review	

THE GOAL IS RESILIENCE, NOT PERFECTION

One gallon per person per day is an acceptable emergency baseline. If you can store more, the PHS stretch goal of about **3 gallons per person per day** provides additional flexibility. Whatever your storage level, strengthen the plan with realistic additional water sources, collection and transport capability, appropriate treatment methods, and redundancy.

Learn more: PreparedHomeSolutions.org/resources/water/
Prepared Home Solutions - Educate • Equip • Empower