

Water Storage

How much

We are advised by our local municipalities that we should have enough water stored to last 2 weeks. Why two weeks? It is assumed that water service can be restored within that timeframe. Not all of the stored water needs to be pure enough for drinking – i.e. potable water. About half of the storage can be less pure, called non-potable water – it needs to be clean enough for showering or bathing.

Drinking water

Minimum personal *consumption* – for drinking
2 gallon per person per day x 14 days = 28 gallons

Non-drinking water

Minimum personal *use* – Bathing/showering, flushing toilets, washing clothes
2 gallons per person per day x 14 days = 28 gallons

Total water per person x 2 weeks = 56 gallons

What are the best water storage containers?

Optimally - new 5 gallon plastic water containers specifically designed for water storage.

Beware

- Never use rinsed-out plastic milk containers – they leak after time and the water tastes sour
- 2 liter used soda bottles don't store enough and are difficult to keep upright
- Rinsed-out fruit juice bottles still retain a slight taste of the juice
- Glass breaks
- Metal dents and rusts

Store Where & How?

The goal is to get as much water into the most compact space as possible because space is often limited

- Cool, dark and dry – must be out of direct sunlight
- Don't stack water containers upon themselves unless they are specifically designed to stack
- Stored on shelving is best
- Don't store directly on concrete – Have a wood layer between storage container and concrete