



# Make Water Safe

**After a natural disaster, water may not be safe to drink.**

**Listen to local officials to find out if your water is safe.**

**Adding some bleach helps make water safe to use.**



## If tap water is clear:

- Use bleach that does not have an added scent (like lemon).
  - » For 5-6% household liquid chlorine bleach - add a little less than 1/8 teaspoon (8 drops or about 0.5 milliliters) to 1 gallon (16 cups) of water.
  - » For 8.25% household liquid chlorine bleach - add a little less than 1/8 teaspoon (6 drops or about 0.5 milliliters) of to 1 gallon (16 cups of water).
- Mix well and wait at least 30 minutes or more before using.

## If tap water is cloudy:

- Use bleach that does not have an added scent (like lemon).
  - » For 5-6% household liquid chlorine bleach - add a little less than 1/4 teaspoon (16 drops or about 1 milliliter) of household liquid bleach to 1 gallon (16 cups) of water.
  - » For 8.25% household liquid chlorine bleach - add 12 drops (or about 1 milliliter) to each 1 gallon (16 cups or water).
- Mix well and wait at least 30 minutes or more before using.

## Remember that containers may need to be cleaned and sanitized before using them to store safe water:

1. Clean the container and rinse it out.
2. Use bleach that does not have an added scent (like lemon).
3. Add 1 teaspoon (64 drops or 5 milliliters) of household liquid bleach to 1 quart (32oz, 4 cups, or about 1 liter) of water.
4. Pour this into a clean storage container, cover tightly, and shake well. Make sure the solution coats the entire inside of the container.
5. Let sit at least 30 seconds, and then pour out solution.
6. Let air dry OR rinse with clean water that has already been made safe, if available.
7. Pour clean water into the sanitized container and cover with a tight lid.

**■ Never mix bleach with ammonia or other cleaners.**

**■ Open windows and doors to get fresh air when you use bleach.**

For more information on making water safe after a natural disaster, please visit [www.cdc.gov/healthywater/emergency/drinking/making-water-safe.html](https://www.cdc.gov/healthywater/emergency/drinking/making-water-safe.html)



**U.S. Department of Health and Human Services**  
Centers for Disease Control and Prevention