

## Where else to get water during an emergency

- Both hot water cylinder and header tanks contain drinkable water, so learn how to access this.
- Water in toilet cisterns is safe if no chemical cleaner has been used.
- Collect rain water and use for washing or pets and plants. Boil for cooking and before drinking.
- You can use swimming pool water for washing and sanitation, but don't drink it.
- If you have doubts about the alternative water supply, strain the water using a clean tea towel, then boil for at least 5 minutes.
- Rivers and streams are likely to be contaminated and water will be unsafe for human consumption - useful for fire fighting though.



## Where can you find other information?

Look in your telephone book - inside the back page of the Yellow Pages.

Contact your local council's civil defence emergency management officer.

Check the national Civil Defence website [www.civildefence.govt.nz](http://www.civildefence.govt.nz) which has all the information you need to help prepare.

Check the Hawke's Bay Regional Council website [www.hbrc.govt.nz](http://www.hbrc.govt.nz) under Civil Defence for local information on hazard risks and preparation.

**In an emergency, listen to your radio for information on such things as evacuations and safety.**



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EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT GROUP

## ARE YOU READY?

# EMERGENCY WATER



- How to prepare it
- Where to store it
- Where to get it



10 litres, the minimum amount of water required for one person for 3 days.



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## How much water will you need?

Disasters, such as earthquakes and flooding, are likely to significantly disrupt essential services such as water. Power, sewage and gas supplies to your home can also be affected, supermarkets and dairies could be closed. So where will you get water?

## STORE WATER NOW

**You are your own best civil defence by being well prepared for an emergency. You may be on your own for 3 days or more before services are restored or help can get to you. And storing water is easy.**

Everyone requires at least 3 litres of drinking water per day. In total, each person will require at least 10 litres of water for drinking, cooking and basic hygiene (such as a quick wash and cleaning teeth) which should last 3 days.

You also need water for your pets, for washing and other household needs. Check what you need, as 10 litres may not be enough.

Bracing your hot water cylinder and header tank will not only guard against damage but can also help ensure you have a significant store of clean, usable water. Check the EQC website for more information

[www.eqc.govt.nz](http://www.eqc.govt.nz) or call **0800 652 333**.

## How to prepare water for an emergency

- The easiest and cheapest way to store water? Reuse large plastic soft drink or juice bottles. (Don't use plastic milk containers as these harbour bacteria and cannot be cleaned sufficiently).
- Wash the bottles thoroughly in hot water.
- Fill each bottle with clean tap water until it overflows.
- Place the lids on tightly, making sure there are no air gaps.
- Label each bottle with the date the water was prepared and when it should be renewed. A smart thing to do is check and/or replace the water when you change your smoke alarm batteries and clocks for daylight saving.
- Or you can buy large water containers at supermarkets - you will still need to refresh this supply after a year though.



## How to store water

- Store bottles away from direct sunlight to help keep the water clear but where you can get to it fairly easily (for example: in the back of a cupboard or pantry).
- Check the bottles every 12 months. If water is not clear, pour it out and start again.
- To extend storage life even further, store water bottles in a freezer. This will also help your freezer economy if contents are getting low.

## Using the water

- Check the water by holding it to the light. Treat it if you are concerned about the quality - add 5 drops of **unscented** bleach per litre and leave for 30 minutes.
- Or buy water purifying tablets from the chemist before an emergency and keep a supply in your first aid kit. Follow the instructions on the pack.
- If the water is clear but tastes a little stale, a few drops of lemon or lime juice will freshen the taste. Or expose the water to fresh air for a while or pour it into a different container.
- Remember to keep your bottles and refill them when the emergency is over.