

# EMERGENCY WATER SOURCES

- ◆ **ICE CUBES**
- ◆ **TOILET TANK:** (not the bowl). Do not use this water if you have added chemical cleansers to the tank.
- ◆ **HOT WATER HEATER:** To drain water from the tank, first turn off gas or electricity to the tank. Second, open the relief valve at the top of the tank or turn on a hot water faucet somewhere in the house. Third, put a clean container under the tap at the bottom of the hot water heater and fill as needed. A clean potable water hose may be needed to fill the container.

## WAYS TO USE LESS WATER:

- ◆ Limit the amount of dishes to be washed. Consider using paper or plastic plates and silverware.
- ◆ Sponge bathe and use moist towelettes for hand/face.

## WEBSITES FOR MORE INFORMATION:

FEDERAL EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AGENCY  
[www.fema.gov](http://www.fema.gov)

AMERICAN RED CROSS  
[www.redcross.org](http://www.redcross.org)

SEATTLE CHAPTER – AMERICAN RED CROSS  
[www.seattlecross.org](http://www.seattlecross.org)

CENTERS FOR DISEASE CONTROL AND PREVENTION  
[www.cdc.gov](http://www.cdc.gov)

NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE  
[www.nws.noaa.gov](http://www.nws.noaa.gov)

CITY OF KENMORE  
[www.kenmorewa.gov/emergency](http://www.kenmorewa.gov/emergency)

CITY OF KIRKLAND  
[http://www.kirklandwa.gov/depart/Fire\\_Services/prepare.htm](http://www.kirklandwa.gov/depart/Fire_Services/prepare.htm)

PUBLIC HEALTH – SEATTLE & KING COUNTY –  
EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS  
[www.kingcounty.gov/healthservices/health/preparedness.aspx](http://www.kingcounty.gov/healthservices/health/preparedness.aspx)

KING COUNTY OFFICE OF EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT  
[www.kingcounty.gov/prepare](http://www.kingcounty.gov/prepare)

# STILL HAVE QUESTIONS?

Call our office at (425) 398-4400  
or email [clunak@nud.net](mailto:clunak@nud.net).

You can also find more publications on our  
website or ask our office to mail you one.

## OTHER PUBLICATIONS INCLUDE:

- ◆ Water Quality Reports
- ◆ Water Conservation Brochures
- ◆ Locating and Fixing Leaks
- ◆ Shutting off Your Water Meter

## Northshore Utility District

6830 NE 185<sup>th</sup> St.

PO Box 82489

Kenmore, WA 98028-0489

Ph: (425) 398-4400 • Fax: (425) 398-4430

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# NORTHSHORE UTILITY DISTRICT



## EMERGENCY DRINKING WATER INFORMATION

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# WATER IS ESSENTIAL FOR SURVIVAL

## HOW MUCH WATER TO STORE:

**Drinking Water:** At least a half-gallon of water per family member per day for a *minimum of three days*.

**Other Purposes:** Store extra water for uses such as pets, bathing, brushing teeth, and cooking.

## HOW TO STORE WATER:

You can purchase commercially bottled water and replace it each year or you can store tap water in cleaned, disinfected soft drink bottles, replacing the water every six months. If you store tap water in your own bottles, follow these guidelines:

- Select safe water containers. Do not use empty bleach, detergent or milk jugs. Polyethylene plastics pick up odors, vapors and light. They are also biodegradable and could deteriorate and leak. You can also consider FDA-approved plastic drums, mylar bags or glass bottles or jars.
- Thoroughly clean the bottles with dishwashing soap and water, and rinse completely so there is no soap residue.
- Sanitize the bottles by adding a solution of 1 teaspoon of non-scented liquid household chlorine bleach to a quart (1/4 gallon) of water. Swish the sanitizing solution in the bottle so that it touches all surfaces including the inside of the cap. After sanitizing, thoroughly rinse out the sanitizing solution with clean water.
- Fill the bottle to the top with regular tap water. If you are using Northshore's tap water, you do not need to add anything else to the water to keep it clean. If you are using water from a well or water source that is not treated with chlorine, add two drops of non-scented liquid household chlorine bleach to each gallon of water.
- Mark each bottle with the fill date and be sure to discard the water and bottle after the expiration date.

## WHAT IF THE WATER QUALITY IS UNCERTAIN?

In addition to having a bad odor or taste, contaminated water can contain microorganisms that cause diseases such as dysentery, cholera, typhoid and hepatitis. You should therefore purify all water of uncertain purity before using it for drinking, food preparation or hygiene. Your emergency kit should contain a good quality water filter, found at most sporting good stores.

## PURIFYING WATER

There are many ways to purify water. None are perfect. Often the best solution is a combination of methods. Before purifying, let any suspended particles settle to the bottom, or strain them through layers of paper towels or clean cloth.

## BOILING WATER METHOD

Boiling is the safest method of purifying water. Bring water to a rolling boil for 3 minutes, keeping in mind that some water will evaporate. Let the water cool before drinking.

Boiled water will taste better if you put oxygen back into it by pouring it back and forth between two containers. This will also improve the taste of stored water.

## CHLORINATION METHOD

Chlorination uses unscented liquid chlorine bleach to kill microorganisms. Follow these recommendations:

- For one quart of water, use 2 drops of unscented liquid chlorine bleach. If water is cloudy, use 4 drops.
- For one gallon of water, use 8 drips of unscented liquid chlorine bleach. If water is cloudy, use 16 drops.
- For 5 gallons of water, use ½ teaspoon of unscented liquid chlorine bleach. If water is cloudy, use 1 teaspoon.
- For 15 gallons of water, use 1 ¼ teaspoons of unscented liquid chlorine bleach. If water is cloudy, use 2 ½ teaspoons.
- For 55 gallons of water, use 4 ½ teaspoons of unscented liquid chlorine bleach. If water is cloudy, use 3 tablespoons.

*(Note: there are approximately 100 drops in a teaspoon)*

Add unscented liquid chlorine bleach to the water, stir and let stand for 30 minutes. If the water does not taste and smell of chlorine at that point, add another dose and let stand another 15 minutes.

If you do not have a dropper, use a spoon and a square-ended strip of paper or thin cloth about ¼ inch by 2 inches. Put the strip in the spoon with an end hanging down about ½ inch below the scoop of the spoon. Place unscented liquid chlorine bleach in the spoon and carefully tip it. Drops the size of those from a medicine dropper will drip off the end of the strip.

## DISTILLATION METHOD

Distillation involves boiling water and then collecting the vapor that condenses back to water. The condensed vapor will not include salt and other impurities. To distill, fill a pot halfway with water. Tie a cup to the handle on the pot's lid so that the cup will hang right side up when the lid is upside down (make sure the cup is not dangling into the water) and boil the water for 20 minutes. The water that drips from the lid into the cup is distilled.

## FALLOUT FILTER METHOD

To make a fallout filter, punch holes in the bottom of a large bucket, and put a layer of gravel in the bucket about 1 ½ inches high. Cover the gravel with a towel cut in a circle slightly larger than the bucket. Cover towel with soil and place the filter over a large container. Pour contaminated water through. Then, disinfect the filtered water using one of the methods described previously. Change the soil in your filter after every 50 quarts of water.

