CS202278

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:

1. Use bleach that does not have an added scent (like lemon).
2. Add 1/8 teaspoon (8 drops or about 0.75 milliliters) of household liquid bleach to 1 gallon (16 cups) of water.
3. Mix well and wait 30 minutes or more before drinking.

If tap water is cloudy:

1. Use bleach that does not have an added scent (like lemon).
2. Add 1/4 teaspoon (16 drops or 1.5 milliliters) of household liquid bleach to 1 gallon (16 cups) of water.
3. Mix well and wait 30 minutes or more before drinking.

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

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

- **Never mix bleach with ammonia or other cleaners.**
- **Open windows and doors to get fresh air when you use bleach.**

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

For more information on water use after a natural disaster, please visit
http://www.cdc.gov/healthywater/emergency/drinking/emergency-water-supply-preparation.html