Drink Safe Water

After a natural disaster, water may not be safe to use. Germs and chemicals may be in the water. Listen to local officials to find out if your water is safe.

**Things you should do**

- Listen for announcements from local officials to find out what to do. They will tell you if there are germs and/or chemicals in the water.
- Boil water if instructed. Boil it for at least 1 minute (start counting when the water comes to a constant boil). Let the water cool sufficiently before drinking. Boiling kills germs in the water.
- Use bottled water if instructed. Sometimes after a disaster, there may be chemicals in the water that boiling cannot remove.

**Things you should never do**

- Never drink the water unless you know it is safe.
- Never wash or clean dishes, utensils, toys, or other objects in the water unless you know it is safe.
- Never bathe in the water unless you know it is safe.
- Never cook with the water unless you know it is safe.
- Never brush your teeth with the water unless you know it is safe.
- Never use the water to make ice unless you know it is safe.

**Ways to feed your baby**

- Breast-feed or use ready-made formula.

If you must use water to make formula, use only commercially-bottled water until officials say your tap water is safe to drink.

For more information on safe water after a natural disaster, please visit [http://www.cdc.gov/healthywater/emergency/safe_water/personal.html](http://www.cdc.gov/healthywater/emergency/safe_water/personal.html)