

Treatment for Stored Water

*Use the best quality of water available. Water from a system with a State Division of Health “approved” rating is recommended. **If the water has already been chlorinated, it can be stored without treatment.** Otherwise, water stored for long periods should be sanitized or disinfected in one of the following ways:*

- PROCESSING:** Fill clean canning jars with water, leaving one inch head space. Adjust new lids and bands; process in a boiling water bath. Quarts should be processed 20 minutes.
- CHLORINE:** *Unscented* liquid chlorine bleach can be used to disinfect water for long-term storage. **Add ¼ teaspoon (4 to 6% sodium hypochlorite) to each gallon of water.** Make sure container has secured lid. If stored water develops cloudiness or odor, replace and treat as above.

Emergency Disinfection of Water

*Sometimes the **ONLY** water available is contaminated with disease-causing organisms. Water should be sanitized or disinfected in one of the following ways:*

- BOILING:** Boil water vigorously for ten minutes. To improve taste, pour water between two clean containers several times to incorporate air.
- CHLORINE:** If the water is **clear**, add ¼ teaspoon *unscented* liquid chlorine bleach per gallon of water. Mix well and let stand for 30 minutes before using. A slight chlorine odor should be detectable in the water. If it is not, repeat the treatment and let water stand for an additional 15 minutes before using. If the water is **cloudy**, chemical treatment is NOT recommended.
- TABLETS:** There are many kinds of Water Purification Tablets available. Be sure to follow manufacturer’s directions to allow time for the chemical to work before using. Check the tablet’s expiration date. Most tablets have a storage life of 2-5 years if unopened.
- COMMERCIAL:** Many Commercial Treatment Units make extravagant claims concerning their ability to purify water. The Utah State Division of Health states:

“In an emergency situation, neither these nor any other presently known home-use devices can be relied upon to produce safe drinking water from any or all contaminated waters. A home-use device which may reduce one aspect of water contamination may have no effect on a different type of hazard in the same water.”

Contamination by Radioactivity and Chemicals

No effective way for decontamination of water which contains radioactive or chemical fallout is available for home use. Your local or state health officers should supervise decontamination of water.

Source: Georgia C. Lauritzen, USU Food and Nutrition Specialist

