

Water Storage Overview

Amounts of Water to Store

The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints recommends that we store a 2 week supply of water for each person in the household. Water utilities will be the first thing turned back on in the event of an emergency. So a 2 week supply is a "good buffer" to have until water services are restored. **For each person store 14 gallons for a 2 week supply.** This would provide for your drinking needs only and extra would need to be stored for food preparations, basic sanitary needs, etc. Since we live in the desert and we need to be able to prepare our food and wash our hands in a disaster, so I recommend we double this amount.

Cleaning Your Water Storage Containers

The basic rule of thumb for storing water in 55 gallon drums is to make sure they are clean first. Rinse barrels with a dilute bleach water solution, swish around in the barrel, and then empty. Rinse drum with clean water until no odor is present. If odor is still present after a bleach rinse, add some baking soda to the drum, swish around in the barrel with a little water, and then empty. Rinse barrel again with just water. Repeat any of these above steps until no odor is present. Empty all rinse water before filling. **Make sure to use a "marine" water hose when filling barrels. Regular hoses can leach out lead so you don't want to use those!** Visit this website to learn more about leaching of lead from a standard garden hose:

<http://www.wisegeek.com/what-is-a-lead-free-garden-hose.htm>

Short-Term Storage

For short-term water storage, fill 55 gallon drums with 1/4 c. unscented bleach and fill up. (Water stored this way will be good for only a year). To read more about water treatment with just bleach go to the Water Storage and Treatment Overview Pages, created by local AZ preparedness company "Preparing Wisely" on the Preparedness Group website here:

<http://www.reynoldsnet.org/preparedness/Water.html>

Long-Term Storage

For long-term storage, use an "Aerobic Stabilized Oxygen" (i.e. Aerobic 7 or Ion) water treatment solution, about 26 mL per drum (1/2 of a bottle), and fill up. (Water stored with Aerobic Stabilized Oxygen will be good for 5 years before needing to empty and refill drums). You can purchase this chemical on-line or at local AZ preparedness store like Honeyville Grain or Foodwise LLC.

Where To Put Water Storage Containers?

You can store water outside as long as you cover the drums with a tarp to keep the tops clean from debris, leaves, bird droppings, etc. We store our barrels in a shady spot here in AZ! You can also store drums in your garage if you have space there. **It is also recommended that you put the barrels on top of 2 x 4's (wood planks) to prevent radon and other gases leaching up from the foundation of your garage, or the soil, and these gases entering into your water barrels.** I don't know what the "radon concentration" is in our soil here in AZ, but we do this step as a precaution measure.

The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Days Saints' website also gives useful information on Water Storage here:

<http://www.providentliving.org/content/display/0,11666,7534-1-4065-1,00.html>

Where To Purchase Water Barrels and Treatment Chemicals?

These are companies where you can purchase water storage containers:

▼ **Arizona Barrels**, for local Arizona people only:

<http://www.arizonabarrels.com/>

▼ **Honeyville Farms**, on-line and local AZ store:

<http://honeyvillegrain.com/>

▼ **Emergency Essentials**, on-line store only:

http://beprepared.com/category.asp_Q_c_E_160_A_c2c_E_In_A_name_E_WaterStorageandAccessories

These are companies where you can purchase Water Treatment Chemicals (i.e. Aerobic 7, Ion, etc.):

▼ **Honeyville Farms**, on-line and local AZ store:

<http://honeyvillegrain.com/>

▼ **Foodwise LLC**, on-line and local AZ store:

<http://foodwisestorage.com/>

▼ **PeggyLayton.com**, on-line store only:

<http://peggylayton.net/ccp0-prodshow/ion.html>