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EMERGENCY WATER STORAGE TIPS

When it comes to disaster preparedness, one thing that should never be forgotten is the emphasis on emergency water storage...

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WATER CRISIS SURVIVAL: HOW TO LOCATE CONCEALED SOURCES OF WATER

The sources of water that will be available in your area may be considerably different from what you are used to.

Shelter in Place

If you are going to shelter in place at home during an emergency situation you need to know that there are covered sources of water there that you can make use of. One thing you should bear in mind, if you lose your inbound water supply shut off the valve that controls it so what's still in the system won't run back into the main system. To get to this water you need to let air into the pipes to let the water drain out. The water from the pipes should still be clean and safe to drink. If you have any concerns at all just boil it.

If you had the foresight to store some water, that may lessen your concern a little. If you have house plants, another thing you can do is to put clear plastic bags on

their branches to collect the condensation that is expired by the leaves. Canned food contains a quite a bit of liquid as well but remember that when you eat digestion requires water as well.

If you opt to collect rain water you should purify it considering it has been washing off your roof. You need to be far more conscious of water in and water out to avoid dehydration. Outside temperature, heavy exertion, worry and feeling ill can contribute to water consumption.

If you aren't able to shelter in place

If during an emergency you have to leave your house and you are not heading to some kind of refuge but are instead headed out into the woods this needs a bit more preparation to find sources of water in it. At the very least, you will need to have some equipment, a knife for example,

something to carry water in like some bottles and something to make a fire with. Now if you have prepared a Go-Bag then you shouldn't need to stress as all of your important equipment will be in it.

You won't have too much trouble locating the various hidden sources of water that are so plentiful in the woods. Most likely one of the least difficult ways is to tie something about your ankles, like rags or socks and stroll through dew soaked grass, but remember sweating uses water so no running. The cloth tied to your ankles collects the dew and you can ring it out and collect that water.

Another collection point can be in the trunk of a tree where the dew can trickle down, but again all collected water should be purified by boiling, and if you didn't manage to get a lot of water then catch the steam from above the pot also.

Didn't bring a pot, make use of a bark bowl. Watching the animals and birds is also a useful way to locate sources of water.

Like all other insects, ants and bees have to have water however bees can travel up to 5 miles going for water so be careful when checking out their flight path, but ants generally stay fairly close to their home and if you see them climbing up a tree or something like that they could be going to a hidden water source.

Birds are also an indicator of sources of water, especially the species that feed on seeds and grains as they have to have more water than birds that eat meat or carrion as they will get water from the flesh they consume.

Lower lying areas, clefts in rocky locations, and tracts of herbage in an otherwise barren environment can also hold concealed sources of water. Animal and bird spoor on a repeatedly used game trail can also mark a local water source.

As a training exercise for prepping or just for having a excuse to go out into the bush, pick up the kids, a hunting knife and a guide book on how to find sources of water and go for a hike and see if you can actually recognize one.

Italian Bean and Tuna Salad

Quick and healthy salad with cannellini beans, white tuna, red onion, balsamic vinegar, and basil comes from the American Heart Association.

Prep Time: 10 minutes

Total Time: 10 minutes

Ingredients:

- 15-ounce can cannellini or Great Northern beans, rinsed and drained
- 6-ounce can white tuna packed in water, rinsed and drained
- 1/4 to 1/2 cup finely chopped red onion
- 3 Tablespoons snipped fresh parsley OR 1 Tablespoon chopped fresh basil
- 2 to 3 Tablespoons balsamic vinegar
- 1 Tablespoon olive oil
- 1/4 teaspoon freshly ground pepper

Preparation:

In medium bowl, combine beans, tuna, red onion, parsley or basil, and balsamic vinegar.

Drizzle salad with olive oil, and then sprinkle with pepper.

Yield: 6 servings

EMERGENCY WATER STORAGE TIPS

When it comes to disaster preparedness, one thing that should never be forgotten is the emphasis on emergency water storage.

Sometimes it is easy to find people who have disaster preparedness kits stashed away in their homes complete with food, first aid kits and a few other essentials.

In many cases, however, water remains as the single most important commodity that is not given enough attention; this often results in water shortage problems that are serious enough to undermine all other steps taken to prepare for a disaster.



The average disaster preparedness kit often has two or three small bottles of water for drinking purposes. Because large volumes of water are heavy and not easily transferable, it is fairly common for people to just think they'd survive with a just a few bottles of water. This, however, is the wrong mind-set when it comes to emergency water storage. Given the importance of water for survival, it is something that should never be taken for granted.

If you belong to that group of individuals who just pack a small amount of water for emergencies, it's time to overhaul your disaster plan and think differently. Here are some important tips for emergency water storage that can mean all the difference between life and death in a disaster scenario.

The first thing you need to think about is quantity; specifically, how much water should you store to be prepared for a disaster. There is no universal answer to this question but there are a few rough guides that can help. The most basic is to store 1 gallon of drinking water for every person per day. This means that if you plan to make your drinking water supply last for a week and there are 5 people in your home, you need a total of 35 gallons of water for that period. And this only covers the water needed for drinking. You will also need water for cooking and hygiene.

Next, decide on the safest storage options for your water. Plastic containers that can be closed properly are ideal because these are able to keep the water safe for long periods. You can purchase water containers from disaster preparedness stores or recycle old ones lying around provided you clean them properly before storing water in them.

The storage location of the water is also critical. If you are in a flood-prone location, don't store the water in the basement. Store it in a safe location that would give you easy access to it even if you were trapped in your house due to whatever disaster is happening outside.

Emergency water storage should not be taken for granted. Plan it properly if you want a better chance of surviving through any disaster that comes to your area. A good disaster preparedness kit can only do so much without water. Secure your access to clean drinking water and you should be able to ride through the toughest times while waiting for help to arrive.

EMERGENCY SURVIVAL TIPS: HOW TO SURVIVE WATER STORAGE

Most people put a high priority on food storage as they prepare their emergency supplies, and water comes in at distant second. Water is such an essential and abundant element on earth. However, there is no guarantee that it will remain available, or safe. If the electrical grid goes down, or the water supply is compromised by terrorist or a disaster, you can be sure the stores will be out almost instantly.

Three days without water and your body begins to slowly shut down. The early symptoms of dehydration are the inability to sweat; next you begin to experience nausea, dizziness and disorientation resulting from the imbalance of fluids and electrolytes in your nervous system. Because your blood is about 85% water, it will become thickened which places a tremendous amount of stress on the heart. Finally the kidneys and other vital organs begin to fail. Now that just does sound like a very nice way to go. But if you give serious thought to water as you prepare your emergency supplies, this nightmare scenario can be avoided completely.

Because water is so essential for survival, it is wise to have both a stored supply of drinking water and a way to acquire water for your continuing needs. Did you know that you should consider having both stationary and portable water?

First you want to have portable water in your 72 hour emergency kits. There are water pouches and boxes made specifically for survival kits. They contain about 4 ounces and they are filled with purified water, and are specifically made for long term storage, just perfect for that emergency kit! Or if you choose to outfit your survival kits with basic water bottles at your local grocery store

Now that you have your survival stash for the first three days of an emergency, what about storing water in your home?

Water storage containers are a great way to store for your long term water needs. They are heavy duty polyethylene barrels, made of food grade materials, are great for water storage. They come in a variety of sizes. It is recommended to store these barrels in a dark and cool area, such as a basement or food storage room. It is not recommended to store any water container in direct or indirect sunlight. Also, it is best to store water barrels with a non-porous insulation barrier (such as wood) between the cement and the barrel.

If at all possible once a disaster strikes find a way to store as much water as possible. Fill your bathtubs, sinks, pots and any other large storage containers, with water. Other places you could find useable water around the house during an emergency. The water heater, ice cubes in freezer, and as a last resort, the reservoir tank in your toilet (not the bowl). Treat water before drinking. There are three general ways to make water free from disease-causing microorganisms. Add extreme heat to the water (boiling and distilling) Add disinfectant, water purification tablets, or add 8 drops of bleach per gallon of water stir and let stand for 30 minutes.

You should also become familiar with the water sources near you; know where to find water during an emergency. You will need a way to filter the water. There are quite few quality water filters on the market.

WHY EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS MUST INCLUDE WATER STORAGE

Water. There is no doubt that humans need water to survive. In any survival situation, drinkable water is the first thing that you would have to consider. There are survival stories about people who were able to survive weeks without food, but not without water. Three days without water is a serious threat to a person's survival.

When planning or preparing for emergency situations and disasters, having enough water stored for you and for your entire family is crucial. When a natural disaster strikes, like a storm or an earthquake, our usual water sources are often affected and sometimes, damaged. Water supply can be affected and we may find ourselves without any water for several days.

These are just natural disasters. There are also man-made events and other accidents which can also cause water supply interruption. Drinking is not the only water need that we should think about. Cooking and sanitation also needs water.

Where Do I Store Water?

When storing water, experts recommend that you store one gallon per person per day. Half of each gallon is for drinking, while the other half is for cooking and sanitation needs.

However, families with babies, nursing mothers, elderly, pets and sick family members need to have extra stored water because of their special needs. Pets, for instance, would need about 1 quart per day for each cat or dog.

When preparing for disasters or emergencies, we usually prepare for 72-hours or the crucial 3 days. However, if you have extra storage or space, you can consider storing about 2-week supply of water.

The question is, where do you put your stored water? A food-grade plastic container that was used to hold soda, juice, or water can be used.

Stainless steel containers are also usable as long as the water stored is not treated with chlorine, since chlorine can cause corrosion on metals.

Make sure that the storage device can be sealed tightly.

There are large barrels which can store about 55 gallons. They are made from plastic polyethylene. However, since they are heavy and big, it would be difficult to move them around, so you would like to have a permanent location for it.

Smaller version of these barrels is also available and can store about 6 gallons of water. For ultimate water storage, there are super tankers which can contain about 125 or 250 gallons of water.

Containers should always be properly cleaned, rinsed or disinfected before use. Your water should be stored in a cool, dark place. Store it away from direct sunlight and from other harmful chemical that release dangerous toxic fumes like gasoline, kerosene and pesticides.

How Do You Filter and Purify Water?

What you need is safe and potable water. There are different kinds of diseases that you can acquire from dirty or contaminated water. You may have stored it, but it does not mean that will not require disinfection or purification. Contaminated drinking water is one of the leading causes of disease, after a disaster or calamity.

There are simple methods on how you can purify water or make sure that it is clean and potable. Boiling is one. You can boil the water for 10

minutes or more. Dropping two drops of bleach or three drops of tincture of iodine for each liter can also clear cloudy water.

After the drops, let the water stand for 30 minutes before using it. There are also water purification tablets available in the market.

You can also use a good filter to remove water contaminants. There are portable filters which can remove microorganisms and other toxic chemicals. Camping and sports stores usually have this kind of filter devices.

There are different reasons why we should start storing water. Having stored water would definitely ease our worry and stress during emergency situations and crises. Leonardo da Vinci is correct when he said that "water is the driving force of all nature."

Are you emergency prepared?

Being prepared for an emergency situation is essential for every household and does not have to be difficult. Emergency disaster plans generally call for survival kits along with enough food and water for at least 72 hours.

Find all the supplies and tools you'll need to be ready for any emergency situation or natural disaster online at <http://EasyEmergencyPreparedness.com>.

Canning Chocolate Strawberry Sauce

Ingredients (makes 6-8 half pint jars)

- *1/2 cup sifted unsweetened cocoa powder*
- *6 tbsp powdered pectin*
- *4 1/2 cups crushed strawberries*
- *6 3/4 cups granulated sugar*
- *4 tbsp lemon juice*

Preparations:

1. Boil water in boiling water bath. Simmer the lids in a small sauce pot with water. Do not boil the lids. Heat the jars in simmering water or wash them in the dishwasher with the heated dry on. Either way the jars need to be hot. Set the bands aside for later use.

2. Mix the cocoa powder and pectin in a small bowl and set aside.

3. Mix the strawberries and lemon juice together in a sauce pot. Add the pectin mixture to the strawberry mixture while whisking the entire time. Heat the mixture until boiling. Stir frequently. Quickly add the sugar to the mixture and bring back to a boil while stirring frequently. Boil hard for 1 minute. Take the mixture off the heat and remove and bubbles.

4. Ladle the strawberry mixture into the hot sterile jars. Leave a 1/4" headspace. Place the lid on the jar. Screw the band onto the jar until fingertip tight.

5. Process in a boiling water canner for 10 minutes. Remove the jars from the canner and allow them to cool completely for 24 hours. After 24 hours, check the seal. You should not be able to move the lid up and down when you press on the center. If you can move the lid up and down, then reprocess for another 10 minutes. If the jars are good, then label the jars and put them away.