



Your water is our promise 

EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS & DRINKING WATER

In the event of a natural disaster, such as an earthquake or severe flooding, Coachella Valley Water District's water delivery system could be compromised. You may be advised not to use tap water for any purpose and to use only bottled water, boiled water, or disinfected water until regular water service is restored. Store this brochure with your emergency preparedness supplies to help guide you during such an event.

Are You Ready?

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Emergency Water Supply

Having an ample supply of drinking water is a top priority in the event of an emergency.



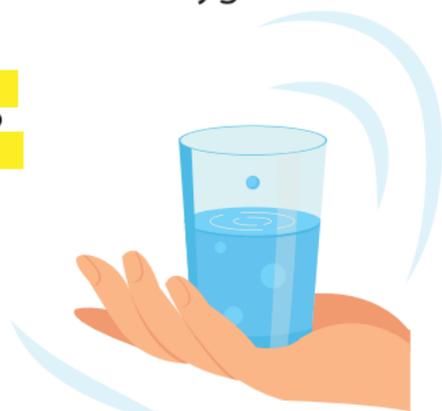
Emergency Water Storage Tips:

- Store a 7-day supply of water for each person in your household.
- Plan for at least 1 gallon per person per day.
- Use commercially bottled water or store your own in clean, food-grade containers.
- Keep commercially bottled water in its original container and observe expiration dates.
- If storing in your own containers, avoid using glass, as it can break in an earthquake.
- Avoid using containers that have previously held milk or fruit juice, as they may contain bacteria.

- Include extra water for:
 - Pets
 - Cooking
 - Brushing teeth and basic hygiene

Is boiled tap water always safe to use?

Following a natural disaster, you may be advised to boil the tap water before use for drinking and cooking. However, tap water can be contaminated with a chemical that is not safe to consume, even after boiling, and may even be a risk during bathing. In this unlikely event, you will receive a specific notification not to use the tap water for any purpose. Boil instructions are provided in this pamphlet.



Hidden sources of water

While bottled water is preferred, the water in your water heater can be used with caution, provided the water heater remains upright and you immediately turn off the main water valve to your home after the disaster occurs. To access this water, turn off the heating element and open the drain faucet at the bottom of the water heater to collect the water. Be sure to use protective gloves to prevent burns, as the water is hot. Melting ice cubes may be another source.



Regardless of the source, treat the water by following the instructions for boiling or disinfecting the water in this brochure.

Do not use water from toilet flush tanks or bowls, radiators, water beds or swimming pools.

Limit nonessential use

During a natural disaster, water pressure may drop, and the supply could be limited due to leaks or the temporary shutdown of wells. If this happens, use water only for essential purposes, such as drinking, cooking, and emergencies (like putting out fires).

- Turn off sprinklers
- Delay using dishwashers or washing machines to avoid wasting water on nonessential tasks.



Responding to a Boil Water or Do Not Drink/Use Notice:

Bottled water

In the unlikely event that CVWD's water system is compromised, you could be advised not to use tap water. Your first backup choice for drinking and cooking should be bottled water.



Emergency Water Storage Tips:

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- Plan for at least 1 gallon per person per day.
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 - Pets
 - Cooking
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Boiled Water

If you don't have bottled water, the next best choice is to boil tap water. According to the World Health Organization (WHO, 2015), boiling water kills pathogenic bacteria, viruses, and protozoa.



The instructions provided below demonstrate how to boil and disinfect water to eliminate most disease-causing microorganisms that may be present in the water. However, boiling or disinfection will not destroy other contaminants, such as heavy metals, salts, and most other chemicals.

- If the water is cloudy, let it settle and filter it through a clean cloth, paper towel, or coffee filter.
- Bring water to a rolling boil for at least one minute.

- Let water cool naturally and store it in clean containers with covers.
- To improve the flat taste of boiled water, add one pinch of salt to each quart or liter of water, or pour the water from one clean container to another several times.



Disinfected Water

If you are unable to boil water, disinfect it with a solution of household bleach. Use only regular, unscented chlorine bleach products that are suitable for disinfection and sanitization as indicated on the label. The label may say that the active ingredient contains 6 or 8.25% sodium hypochlorite.

DO NOT USE SCENTED, COLOR-SAFE, OR BLEACH PRODUCTS WITH ADDED CLEANERS, AND AVOID USING POWDERED OR SWIMMING POOL BLEACH. THESE PRODUCTS MAY CONTAIN HAZARDOUS CHEMICALS THAT ARE NOT INTENDED FOR CONSUMPTION.

Disinfection Instructions

- If the water is cloudy, let it settle and filter it through a clean cloth, paper towel, or coffee filter.



- Locate a clean dropper from your medicine cabinet or emergency supply kit.
- Locate a fresh liquid chlorine bleach or a liquid chlorine bleach that is stored at room temperature for less than one year.
- Add 1/8 teaspoon (or 8 drops) of regular, unscented liquid household bleach for each gallon of water (double the amount of bleach if the water is cloudy, colored, or very cold), stir well and let it stand for 30 minutes before using.
- The water should have a slight chlorine odor. If it doesn't, repeat the dosage and let it stand for another 15 minutes before use.
- If the chlorine taste is too strong, pour the water from one clean container to another and let it stand for a few hours before use.
- Store disinfected water in clean containers with covers.

Consider adding a water filter device to your Emergency Kit

A water filter straw is a compact, portable device that uses a physical filtration system to make unsafe water safe to drink. They're commonly available at many retailers, including most sporting goods stores.





Additional Resources

[CVWD.org/emergencypreparedness](https://www.cvwd.org/emergencypreparedness)

[Ready.gov](https://www.ready.gov)

[RIVCOREADY.org](https://www.rivcoready.org)

Safe Drinking Water Hotline: 1-800-426-4791

[Water.epa.gov/drink/hotline](https://www.water.epa.gov/drink/hotline)

World Health Organization (WHO), 2015.

Technical Briefing on Boil Water.



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