



Assemble Your Disaster Supply Kit

A disaster supply kit is a collection of basic items, prepared ahead of time, that members of a household may need in the event of a disaster. Local officials and relief workers will be on the scene after a disaster, but they cannot reach everyone immediately.

Basic services such as electricity, gas, water, sewage treatment, and telephones may be cut off for days, weeks, or longer. You may have to evacuate at a moment's notice and take only essentials with you. You probably will not have the opportunity to gather supplies in the midst of an emergency.

Food

- Avoid foods that will make you thirsty. Choose salt-free crackers, whole grain cereals, and canned foods with high liquid content.
- Stock canned foods, dry mixes, and other staples that do not require refrigeration, cooking, water, or special preparation. **(Note: Be sure to include a manual can opener.)**
- Include special dietary needs.

Water

How Much Water Do I Need?

You should store at least one gallon of water per person per day. A normally active person needs at least one-half gallon of water daily just for drinking.

Individual needs vary, depending on age, physical condition, activity, diet, and climate. Children, nursing mothers, and ill people need more water. Very hot temperatures can double the amount of water needed. A medical emergency might require additional water. Water is also used for sanitation and hygiene.

How Should I Store Water?

The safest, most reliable emergency supply of water is commercially bottled water. Keep bottled water in its original container, and do not open it until you need to use it.

If you are preparing your own containers of water, it is recommended that you use food-grade containers.

If the water comes from a non-commercial source like a well that is not treated with chlorine, add two drops of non-scented liquid household chlorine bleach to the water. Tightly close the container using the original cap. Be careful not to contaminate the cap by

touching the inside of it with your finger. Place a date on the outside of the container so that you know when you filled it. Tap water does not need to be treated.

Maintain Your Kit

Just as important as putting your supplies together is maintaining them so they are safe to use when needed.

- Keep canned foods in a cool, dry place.
- Throw out cans that become swollen, dented, or corroded.
- Store boxed food in tightly closed plastic or metal containers to protect from pests and extend its shelf life.
- Place new items at the back of the storage area and older ones in the front. *
- Change stored food and water supplies every six months. Be sure to write the date you store it on all containers.
- Keep items in airtight plastic bags and put your entire disaster kit in one or two easy-to-carry containers, such as an unused trash can, camping backpack, or duffel bag.

Visit floridadisaster.org/getaplan to build your emergency plan.

Source: fema.gov