# HOW MUCH WATER SHOULD A FAMILY STORE?

Ready.gov says to store one gallon of water per person per day for several days, for drinking and sanitation. For a family of four, a minimum of four gallons a day means 12 gallons for three days. Add water for pets, and replace stored water on a schedule.

## THE STEPS

01 Count the people in your home, then multiply by one gallon a day for drinking and sanitation.

02 Plan for several days at least. For a family of four that is at least 12 gallons for three days.

03 Add water for each pet, and a bowl to serve it in.

04 Store water in sturdy, sealed containers in a cool, dark place you can reach.

05 Review stored supplies on a schedule so food and water stay fresh.

## THE CHECKLIST

- ☐ One gallon per person per day
- ☐ Water for pets
- ☐ Sealed storage containers
- ☐ A way to treat water as a backup
- ☐ A date on the calendar to rotate it

**How we write it into your plan.** In every plan we write, we size the water to your household and put the rotation date on your fridge sheet.

**Sources:** Ready.gov, Build a Kit; Ready.gov, Prepare Your Pets for Disasters. Last reviewed November 17, 2026. General planning information, not medical, legal or financial advice.