🚰 Drinking Water Self-Reliance 🚰

Question: Why read this?
Answer: Your family, pets, and you will die without safe drinking water.

Fun Fact: You will die a slow, agonizing, miserable death in about three days without drinkable sources of water.

"But.. I never drink water..."

Eventually you will run out of Rock☆Stars, Soda, and Beer.
Then what?
What about your kids?
What about your pets?

Things that are NOT SAFE to drink:
- Your pool water.
- Canal water.
- Lake water
- Any stream or river water.
- Any pond or open water.
- Generally speaking: Anything not already labeled as drinking water.

This is a simple guide to plan and respond to a water emergency. A water emergency is when nothing comes out of the tap, or you were alerted that water is contaminated and unsafe to drink.

This guide is purposeful yet easy to understand and implement. The goal is to give you direction, confidence, and a sense of urgency in establishing your individual water self-reliance plan.

Let's get the fundamentals out of the way first. This is important regardless of how complex your water self-reliance plan will be.

Thirteen Elements of Drinking Water Self-Reliance

1) Identification (Of Water Source)
2) Collection (From Water Source)
3) Straining/Screening (Large debris)
4) Transport (From Water Source)
5) Sedimentation/Flocculation
6) Pre-filtration (Remove Particulates)
7) Sanitation/Disinfection (Kill Germs)
8) Primary Filtration (Remove Toxins)
9) Purification/Sterilization (Finishing)
10) Storage (Filling Containers)
11) Mobility (Transporting Containers)
12) Point of Use (Draining Containers)
13) Post-Use/Sewage (Gray & Black)

The Basics everyone must know and understand are Steps: 10, 11, and 12
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MOST PEOPLE would not have a clue how to boil or disinfect water. This guide is for those who are on the consumer-end of the supply chain; and do not have the will, desire, time, space, or resources to develop a full-scope, 13-element Water Reliance Strategy.

It would be easier to just say "Buy water bottles and stack them under your bed" - and if you get anything out of this, do that. But how much water?

You need a MINIMUM of THREE DAYS of Drinking Water for every person and pet in your household.

Now this is where it gets tricky...

"Drinking" or "Potable" Water is safe to drink, or mix with things you drink or eat, or wash your face and brush your teeth with. So that is much more than what you would personally need or want to drink by itself. That means "how much water per day?" is more than a gallon or two per person.

So how much Fresh Drinking Water do you need per person, per day? Assume you have no access or skills to obtain or use any other source of water: You need FIVE GALLONS PER PERSON, PER DAY for at least THREE DAYS. So that is 15 Gallons minimum per person and pet in your household.

The next question is "Where am I going to store all that water?!" Not to worry, that is a basic element of consideration. But first, come to terms with this fact of fifteen gallons. Why five gallons a day when you may only drink one gallon a day?

Daily Water Use with 0% drain waste:
- Drinking: 1 Gal
- Sanitation: 2 Gal
- Food prep/cooking: 1 Gal
- Personal Hygiene: 1 Gal

Keep in mind if you and your family have no experience the principles of camping or other extremely-limited water use scenarios, your drain waste could easily be 20% or 1/5th or 1 Gallon a day! Drain Waste is open-tap water left running before or after a cup or pan goes under the water stream, or washing hands under running water, or leaving water running while brushing teeth, or rinsing-out a coffee cup, etc...

If you are inexperienced with dry-camping water conservation practices: You NEED FIVE GALLONS of Drinking Water PER DAY!

Now... Where to store it? The easiest, quickest, cheapest way is to by 1 gallon jugs of purified water off-the-shelf. You can store these under your bed; your children's bed; under your hanging clothes racks in the closet; behind the couch, between furniture and a wall, in whatever nook or cranny that you can displace death with life-giving water.

It is more important to know where NOT to store water. NEVER store drinking water under your bathroom or kitchen sink, or near any chemicals, solvents, or cleaning supplies.

AVOID storing water outside or in a garage or shed. If you must, cover it with a tarp or other dust and light-blocking cover. Assure it is no where near gasoline, lawn equipment, paint, fertilizer, or other such fluids or compounds.

Why one-gallon jugs and not just water bottles? Because you know how many partially-consumed water bottles end up accumulating around the house or any kind of party or gathering. That is drain waste because after water touches the mouth it is gray water, or black water if the person was sick.

Each person should have their own water bottle or double-insulated container or canteen or whatever is durable, portable, and uniquely identifiable as one's personal item. It should be no less than 16 ounces and no more than 40 ounces, with a closing lid or closing spout/lid combo top. It should NOT have a "sippy cup/coffee cup" always-open drinking port.

This way there is no drain waste, no accumulated trash, and a very clearly managed "point of use" water station discipline. You pour the water from the easy to manage gallon container, to the cup, pan, pet bowl, coffee pot.. whatever. You know what you are using and you are mindful of how quickly a gallon of water is consumed.

You can use the classic 5-gallon "Sparkletts / Arrowhead" bottles and dispenser /decanter as well. The point of use concept is what matters.

The advantage of one gallon or five gallon jugs is their re-use to support other 13 basic drinking water elements; mainly Collection and Transport. You can refill them, which keeps you from dying of thirst on top of a pile of cheap, crumpled 16oz water bottle trash.

It is perfectly fine to have cases of 30-pack, 16oz water bottles in the pantry. They are indeed handy, stackable, and portable. But they are not efficient or effective in use, cost, capacity, or efficiency.

The intermediate guide will cover topics such as using your gray water for toilet flushing, plant/ garden watering, and heavy initial cleaning needs.

For now - take a look around where you live and see what can be rearranged to accommodate your emergency water supply. Then go out and get some water and store it.

Get some double-walled, insulated containers, or even single-walled stainless steel water bottles for each member of your family. Start today, and make it a habit to buy an extra five gallons of water every trip to the store.

And every time you brush your teeth, do dishes, make tea or coffee, wash your hands, do laundry, water the yard, or turn on the tap - think of this guide.

Purchase 275 and 55 gallon water containers from this local vendor.

http://www.arizonabarrels.com/55_gallon_closed_top_blue_plastic_barrels_drums.html