

## Water Storage Container Options

**Note: No matter what container you choose, be sure to label it with the date so you'll know when you need to swap it out with fresh water.**

Size	Type	Pros	Cons	Notes
Small	<b>Empty Milk, Soda, or Juice Containers</b>	Easy to obtain Inexpensive	Not good for long term storage. Can take on flavor of previous liquid if not cleaned properly	Only use containers that once held food. First wash with dish soap and rinse with water. Then mix 1 tsp. bleach with 1 quart water and swish around bottle to sanitize bottle. Empty bleach water before adding clean water. Needs to be replaced every 6 – 12 months.
Small	<b>Bottled Water</b>	Portable, easy to grab and transport in an emergency. Convenient size. No hassle to use.	Not cost effective for storing large amounts of water. Chemical from plastic can leach into water over time. Not environmentally friendly.	Best stored in a cool, dark place. ( 68 – 77 degrees Fahrenheit). Needs to be replaced every 6 – 12 months.
Small	<b>Emergency Water Pouches</b>	Convenient size, easy to use and transport. Five year shelf life and no special storage is required. Great for emergency kits.	Each packet only holds 4.22 oz. Can get expensive to store a lot of water.	Similar to a juice pouch. There are several brands. Look for them online or in camping stores. Check label to make sure they are US Coast Guard Approved.
Small	<b>Aqua Blox Emergency Drinking Water</b>	Convenient size, easy to use and transport. Five year shelf life and no special storage required. Great for emergency kits.	They are crushable, and once crushed, they can leak. Can get expensive to store a lot of water.	Similar to a juice box and comes with a straw. They hold 6.75 – 8.45 oz. Look for them online or in camping stores. They are US Coast Guard Approved.

Small	<b>Emergency Drinking Water in a Can</b>	Most 30 year shelf life. Can withstand extreme temperatures.	They can be very expensive.	Make sure to store a can opener with your cans. Blue Can brand can last for 50 years.
Medium	<b>Water Bricks</b>	Stackable, so you can use space efficiently. Have handles so you can carry them.	Expensive initial investment.	They are more expensive than a 55 gallon barrel, but are great if you have limited storage space. They fit under beds or in closets.
Medium	<b>Water Cooler Bottles (With or without delivery service)</b>	You can have them delivered to your home. You can rotate through your supply regularly	It's more expensive than other options.	Think Sparkletts drinking water, but there are other brands too. Bottles come in 3 or 5 gallon size, There are racks you can buy to store up to 10 bottles stacked in a limited space.
Large	<b>Water Storage Barrels</b>	Inexpensive way to store a lot of water (55 gallons)	They are bulky & may be hard to store in a small apartment. It can be hard to get out the water.	Make sure they are BPA free. Do <i>not</i> store them directly on cement. Make sure you buy a bung wrench to open them, a spigot, and a pump to get the water out. Rotate the water every 6 -12 months unless you use a 5 year water preserver
Extra Large	<b>Water Tanks</b>	You can store LOTS of water (160- 360 gallons). They come with spigots and hose attachments. Some can be hooked in to your home water system to help keep the water fresh.	They can be expensive. They take up a lot of space, they are heavy, and aren't suitable for all locations.	Make sure they are BPA free. If hooked to your house water supply be aware of possibility of cross-contamination if your home supply becomes contaminated.

**Note: When filling containers, do not use a regular garden hose. Be sure to get one that is lead free, like the type used for trailers or motor homes. Consider adding 5 Year Water Preserver Concentrate so you don't have to rotate your supply every 6-12 months.**

**Note: The information in this table comes mostly from Prepare Your Family for Survival by Linda Loosli.**