FREE PRINTABLE RESOURCE

WATER STORAGE PLANNER

How much your household needs, how to store it safely, and when to rotate it.

HOW MUCH YOU NEED

Household size (people) _____

× 1 gallon × days of supply _____

= Gallons to store _____

- ☐ **3-day minimum**
  1 gallon per person, per day
- ☐ **2-week goal if space allows**
  14 gallons per person
- ☐ **Add more for pregnant/nursing, sick, pets**
- ☐ **Plan closer to 2x in hot climates**
  Needs can double in high heat

CONTAINER CHECKLIST

- ☐ **Sealed, unexpired bottled water**
  Simplest option, no rotation schedule
- ☐ **Or FDA-approved food-grade containers**
- ☐ **Tight lid, unbreakable body, narrow neck**
- ☐ **Never a container that held bleach or pesticides**
  No exceptions, even rinsed

FILLING & SANITIZING

- ☐ **Wash with dish soap, rinse well**
- ☐ **Sanitize: 1 tsp bleach per quart, swish**
  Unscented, 5–9% sodium hypochlorite
- ☐ **Wait 30 seconds, empty completely**
- ☐ **Air-dry, fill, label with the date**

STORAGE RULES

- ☐ **50–70°F, away from direct sunlight**
- ☐ **Off the ground, on a shelf**
- ☐ **Away from gasoline, pesticides, solvents**
- ☐ **Replace self-filled water every 6 months**

Bottled water is easier. Sealed commercial bottled water just needs its printed expiration date watched. No sanitizing, no swap schedule.

IF YOU NEED TO TREAT IT

- ☐ **Boil: rolling boil, 1 minute**
  3 minutes above 5,000 feet elevation
- ☐ **Or bleach: 8 drops per gallon (6%)**
  Stir, wait 30 minutes, faint chlorine smell
- ☐ **Cloudy water: settle and filter first**
  Cloth, paper towel, or coffee filter; double the bleach if still cloudy

ROTATION LOG

Filled:	_____	Check/replace by:	_____
Filled:	_____	Check/replace by:	_____
Filled:	_____	Check/replace by:	_____
Filled:	_____	Check/replace by:	_____

Full guide: tacticalbox.com/blogs/tacticalbox-blog/water-storage-basics-how-much-and-how-long

Sources: CDC, Ready.gov, EPA, Utah State University Extension.