




Methods for Disinfecting Water

								
TYPE OF GERM	BOIL (for 1 min., or 3 mins. at elevations above 6,500 feet)	FILTER	PURIFIER	CHLORINE TREATMENT (disinfectant)	IODINE (disinfectant)	CHLORINE DIOXIDE (disinfectant)	COMBINING FILTER AND DISINFECTANT	UV LIGHT USED IN CLEAR WATER
BACTERIA (such as <i>Campylobacter</i> , <i>Salmonella</i> , <i>Shigella</i> , <i>E. coli</i>)	✓	✓ 0.3 micron or smaller filter	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓ 0.3 micron or smaller filter, plus disinfectant	✓
VIRUSES (such as norovirus, hepatitis A, enterovirus, rotovirus)	✓	✗	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
PARASITE <i>Giardia</i>	✓	✓ Filter certified for "cyst" and "oocyst" reduction	✓	!	!	✓	✓ Filter certified for "cyst" and "oocyst" reduction, plus chlorine dioxide	✓
PARASITE <i>Cryptosporidium</i>	✓	✓ Filter certified for "cyst" and "oocyst" reduction	✓	✗	✗	!	✓ Filter certified for "cyst" and "oocyst" reduction, plus chlorine dioxide	✓

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention
National Center for Emerging and Zoonotic Infectious Diseases

Learn more: www.cdc.gov/healthywater/drinking/travel/backcountry_water_treatment.html

- ✓ **EFFECTIVE**—will remove or kill this type of germ
- ! **SOMEWHAT EFFECTIVE**—may remove some germs of this type, but water could still be unsafe
- ✗ **NOT EFFECTIVE**—will not remove or kill this type of germ

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Boiling water is the most reliable way to kill germs. In a disaster, you may not have the fuel to boil water. CDC says the next best option: use a filter plus a disinfectant.

For more information, check out: <https://www.neighborsready.org/water-supplies.html>

Disinfection Guidelines

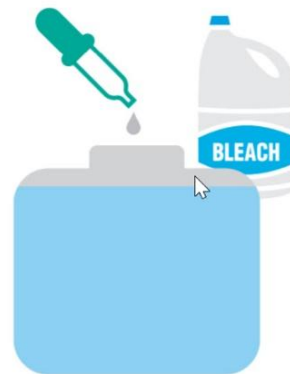


DISINFECT

To kill disease causing organisms.

Add 8 drops or a little less than 1/8 of a teaspoon of 5%-6% unscented household bleach to 1 gallon water.

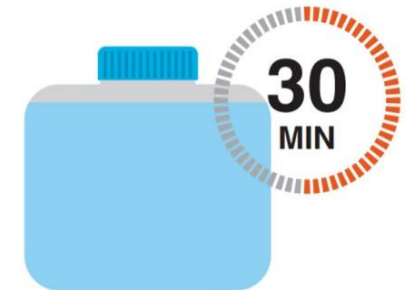
For cloudy tap water, use 16 drops or 1/4 teaspoon



Add bleach to water.
(1/8 tsp/gal H₂O)



Mix well.



Wait at least 30 minutes before using.



Tap water may not be safe to drink during an emergency; listen to your local authorities. Use bottled water if possible. If not, use one of the CDC-recommended methods to make it safe. Boiling works best. Water contaminated with harmful chemicals or toxins cannot be made safe by boiling or disinfecting. For more information, scan the QR code or go to: <https://www.neighborsready.org/water-supplies.html>

CAUTION: Household bleach has a shelf life of only 6 months from the time of production. The chlorine gradually loses potency while in storage, which means that older bleach may not kill bacteria and viruses lurking in your water. Calcium Hypochlorite (pool shock) is a shelf-stable alternative to liquid bleach.