



Department of Public Health
www.fcdph.org

DRINKING WATER

EMERGENCY DISINFECTION

Boiling

Boil water for 2-5 minutes. Avoid boiling water with high nitrate or nitrite levels as this concentrates the contaminants (in such situations, use the following chemical treatment process instead.)

Chemical Treatment

When boiling is not practical, use common household bleach. Make sure bleach is free of perfumes and added scents.

Read the label for disinfection instructions. If there are no instructions on the label, then:

- Use 2 drops of liquid bleach per quart of water. Double the amount if water is turbid or colored
- Mix thoroughly and allow water to stand for 30 minutes before using
- Water should have a slight chlorine odor; if not, add one more drop of liquid bleach

NOTE: To disinfect larger quantities of water, please see the chart below. During natural disasters, please follow the instructions of your local health authority, state agency or federal agency.

Disinfection - General Dilution Guidelines

Desired Parts Per Million (ppm)			1.0 ppm		5 ppm	
Strength of Chlorine Solution			5 %		5 %	
Water	50,000	Gallons	1	Gal	5	Gal
Water	25,000	Gallons	2	qt	2.5	Gal
Water	10,000	Gallons	25.6	oz	1	Gal
Water	5,000	Gallons	12.8	oz	2	qt
Water	2,000	Gallons	5.12	oz	25.6	oz
Water	1,000	Gallons	2.56	oz	12.8	oz
Water	500	Gallons	1.28	oz	6.4	oz
Water	200	Gallons	0.51	oz	2.56	oz
Water	100	Gallons	0.26	oz	1.28	oz
Water	50	Gallons	0.13	oz	0.6	oz
Water	25	Gallons	0.06	oz	0.32	oz
Water	10	Gallons	0.03	oz	0.13	oz
Water	5	Gallons	0.01	oz (40 drops)	0.06	oz

If you have any questions, please call
Fresno County Department of Public Health, Environmental Health Division at (559) 600-3357.