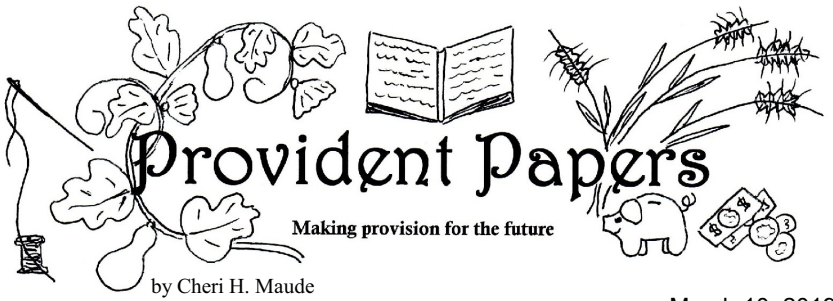

by Cheri H. Maude

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Water Storage

Why Store Water?

When people think of preparedness they usually think of wheat or food storage. However, water becomes more critical than food quickly, and it is harder to store. While many people can last 3 weeks without food, the average a human body can go without water is only 100 hours. If you are hot it will be much less.

Most of us have never needed to do more than turn on a tap or buy a bottle of water to get what we need. However, that could change overnight and with no warning. Here are some of the things that could cause the water supply you depend on to be gone:

1. Broken pipes—from earthquake, construction, aging materials, malfunction, and frost.
2. Contamination—More and more often you hear of cities that have a problem with this. There can be a lot of factors that cause contamination.
3. Power failure—A wide-spread, long-lasting power failure will affect Alpine and the water supply. If you live higher than the center of town you may not have enough pressure to get water, especially for irrigation.
4. Severe drought conditions—We must have ground water here to survive. If we had several dry years, the lack of ground water would be a problem for all of us.

Last summer I had three friends in different neighborhoods in Alpine that had to use the water in their storage because of problems with construction and plumbing. There wasn't a serious crisis, but there was no water coming out of their taps. Granted, they could go to the store and buy bottled water, but if something had happened that was wide-spread the water in the store would be gone instantly. Then what?

What should you store?

14 gallons per person (and pet) in your household. The minimum Church recommendation/guideline for water storage is 1 gallon per person per day for two weeks. (FEMA says 3 days.) That is just enough to drink, to cook, and to wash hands and face. Laundry takes more. If you have many dehydrated foods they will require some too. I also like to add a little in for washing dishes and more than hands and face.

You may need more than that if the water shortage lasts, but water takes room, is heavy, and can be difficult to store. For that reason, it is recommended that besides a two-week supply of water you have a way to obtain water and purify it. There will be more on that in the next paper.

How should you do this?

1. Check your house, garage, and yard for possible places you could store water. It is good to keep in mind that water stores best when not too hot or not in direct sun. You may have to be creative. A friend of mine made negative comments about her grandmother for having a Sunny Delight bottle filled with water behind every outward bend of her floor-length curtains that covered a higher window in her small home. I had to hand it to her grandmother for preparedness creativity even if the kind of bottle may not have been ideal. This would have been easily accessible to rotate and in case of an emergency.
2. Choose containers that are approved for water storage that fit in the spaces you have identified. You may choose to buy your water already bottled and packaged for storage, or you may choose to fill containers from your tap. If you choose to

fill containers, they should be food grade and washed well first. Here are some that are approved for water storage:

a. PET 1 bottles. These are the clear kind that juice, sports drinks, soda pop, and water come in. The ones that are a little bit thicker than cheap water bottles are better. If you check the bottom and it has a triangle with a 1 inside it is the right kind. There are also "refrigerator bottles" that work well for this at the store where everything costs a dollar. These hold 6 cups and fit well side by side on a shelf.
b. Blue heavy-plastic barrels for water storage. These come in 55 gallon size and also a couple of smaller sizes. *I love it best if these have a spigot near the bottom. If you don't have this you will need a pump or syphon to get water out.
c. Special water tanks that hook right into your plumbing that you can open or close so that you can keep the reserve of water, but also flush out often.
d. Boxed water that comes in a box with a thin bladder inside, that you can stack two high. Olympus Water carries these.
e. Portable hard-plastic water containers, often in 3–5 gallon size. You can order these on line.
f. Glass jars are good for water storage. Glass may be the highest quality for water storage, but you do run the risk of breakage. *I personally choose to fill glass jars with water to store until I need them again rather than leaving them empty.
g. FEMA also approves food-grade enamel-lined containers and fiber glass.

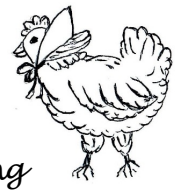
3. If you choose to buy bottled water, get it and store it today! If you choose to fill your own containers, use the water straight from the tap that has chlorine rather than filtered water that takes out the chlorine. Fill your containers asap or as you have empty ones. Make sure they don't leak. Label them with the date you filled them and tuck them away. Put a change date on your calendar. *Some people change out water and food in 72-hour kits before every general conference.

Tips:

* Water should be stored in a cool, dark place as much as possible.
* I like to have at least 2–5 gallons of water per person in containers that are portable in case you have to grab it and go.
* Bottled water that has been sealed can be stored indefinitely, but may taste flat or not as fresh. However, the store has only a year before it expires and you don't know how it was stored. If you use tap water, for best results it should be changed every 6 months. You can still use it after that for washing, or with boiling or other purification just to be on the safe side. *If you don't want to just waste it before a change you can start watering your garden with it or use it for cleaning or hand laundry.
* Water containers and food-storage containers in general should not be stored directly on cement. While boards raised above the cement with bricks or other wood is great, even a board or a couple of layers of cardboard under the containers is helpful. Chemicals from cement can leach into food and water through plastic containers, and metal can rust from dampness cement contains.
* If you choose to store water outside, you need special containers that won't allow sunlight to grow algae easily (reason for the dark blue color). You also need to have containers that will expand and that are not filled all the way if the containers may freeze. Plan to park these in a shady place out of direct sunlight.

Water purification and procurement will be continued in the next Provident Paper!

Notes from Red Hen



Dear Red,

I loved your letter about attitude. We could use that about now. We are suffering from a putrid water crisis. We hope to have a solution soon, because it is hard to have a good attitude when we are feeling sick. I hope to write more next week.

— Love, Speckle