



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.