

Storing water to use in an emergency



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# About this document

A person drinking water from a faucet

Description automatically generated

This Easy Read document is about **storing** water to use in an **emergency**.



**Storing** means putting away for later.

An **emergency** is something bad that happens that needs to be taken care of right away.

A house in the water

Description automatically generatedEmergencies are things like:

fires

floods

A green planet with continents

Description automatically generatedearthquakes.

# Why you need to store water at home



You need to store water because in an emergency there may not be fresh water.

A person in a wheelchair holding a glass of water

Description automatically generated

Water is needed for lots of things like:

drinking

A person wearing gloves and washing up a blue tub with soap

Description automatically generatedwashing

cooking

A cat and dog sitting together

Description automatically generatedfirst aid

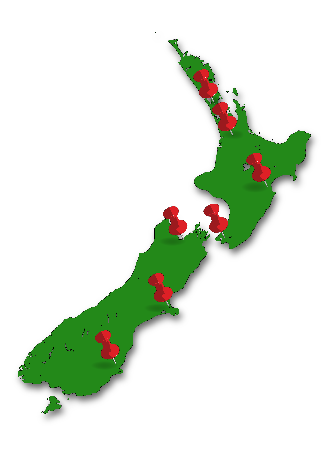
taking care of pets.

A map of the country

Description automatically generated

Different parts of the country need to store different amounts of water.

This document talks about how much water you need to store in the **Wellington Region.**



The **Wellington Region** means:

Wellington City

Lower Hutt

Upper Hutt

Porirua

Kāpiti

the Wairarapa.

# How much water do you need to store?

A blue and white notebook with writing on it

Description automatically generated

You need to store 7 days worth of water for each person in your house.



**20L**

Each person needs about 20 litres of water each day.

A bottle of water with a green cap

Description automatically generatedIt is best to store at least 140 litres of water for each person who lives in your house.

**140L**

A person drinking a glass of milk

Description automatically generatedThis amount means you should have enough water for:

A person cooking in a kitchen

Description automatically generateddrinking

cooking

washing yourself with a cloth.

This amount means you should also have enough water for:

A person wearing gloves and washing up a blue tub with soap

Description automatically generatedwashing dishes

brushing your teeth

washing clothes by hand

A green first aid kit with white and green cross

Description automatically generatedfirst aid

your pets.



You can store less water but you will not be able to do as much.

The smallest amount of water you should store is 3 litres of water for each day for each person.



**3L**

**21L**



This means that for 7 days you will need to store 21 litres for each person.

A person drinking a glass of milk

Description automatically generatedStoring the smallest amount means you will only be able to use that water to:

drink

cook

clean yourself a little like brushing your teeth.

A person breastfeeding a baby

Description automatically generatedSome people will need more water than others like:

children

people who are breastfeeding

A cartoon of a person lying in bed

Description automatically generatedpeople who are sick.

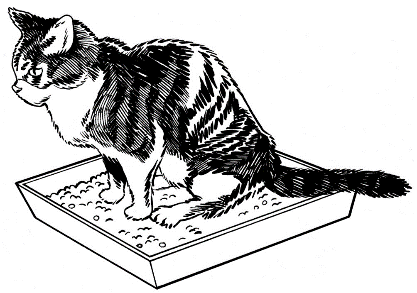
# Water for your pets

A cat and dog sitting together

Description automatically generated

Pets need water in an emergency for:

drinking

you to clean up any mess they make.

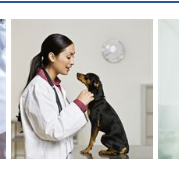
A dog looking at a food container

Description automatically generated

Pets drink more water than normal when they are upset.

A black and white illustration of a rabbit and a rabbit in a cage

Description automatically generatedThe amount of water you need for your pets will be different because of:

how big they are – a cat will need less water than a large dog

any health problems they have.

# How to store water safely

A person with a light bulb above his head

Description automatically generated

There are a few ways to store water safely.

You can store water in recycled containers like:

plastic water bottles

soft drink bottles.



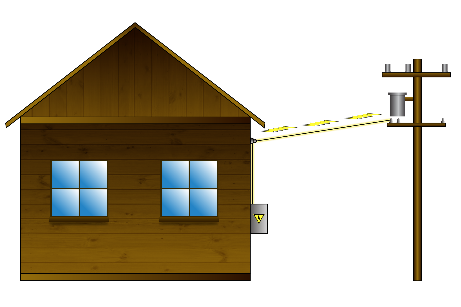
Do not store water in milk bottles because milk cannot be fully cleaned out of a milk bottle.

This means that milk bottles can make the water go bad.

A blue plastic container with a label

Description automatically generatedYou can also fill clean ice cream containers with water to put in the freezer.

Putting ice cream containers of water into the freezer is good for an emergency because:



the large blocks of ice can keep food cool if the power is off

A person drinking a glass of milk

Description automatically generatedthe ice can be used for drinking once melted.

A metal barrel with a sticker on it

Description automatically generatedYour hot water cylinder is a good place to get water in an emergency.

Make sure your hot water cylinder is held in place so that it will not break in an emergency.

A white toilet with the lid up

Description automatically generatedYou can also sometimes use the water from the cistern which is the tank at the top of your toilet.

You can only use the water from the cistern if you do not use chemical toilet cleaners in it.



A white toilet with the lid up

Description automatically generatedDo not use any water in the bowl of the toilet which is where waste goes.

A green rain barrel with a blue label

Description automatically generatedYou can buy bigger containers to store water like:

200 litre household water tanks from your local council

larger water tanks from hardware stores

 portable water containers from:

* hardware stores
* camping stores.

# Contact us

You can contact us if you have any questions about:



storing water

how to be ready for an emergency.

You can contact us by:

* A white envelope with a black at symbol

  Description automatically generatedemail at:

**info@wremo.nz**

A computer keyboard and a globe

Description automatically generatedgoing to our website at:

**www.wremo.nz/water**

A person holding a phone to her ear

Description automatically generatedYou can also contact us by phone on:

**04 830 4279**



You can call us:

between 8:30 am and 5:00 pm



Monday to Friday.

If you find it hard to use the phone the **New Zealand Relay** service is for people who are:

* Deaf / hard of hearing
* deafblind
* speech impaired / find it hard to talk.

You can find out more about the New Zealand Relay service at:

**www.nzrelay.co.nz**

This information has been written by Wellington Region Emergency Management.

It has been translated into Easy Read by the Make it Easy Kia Māmā Mai service of People First New Zealand Ngā Tāngata Tuatahi.



The ideas in this document are not the ideas of People First New Zealand Ngā Tāngata Tuatahi.



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