UK PREPPER LIFE

Emergency Water Storage Checklist

For UK homes

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Use this printable checklist to plan, check and rotate your emergency water storage. Start with three days of safe drinking water, then build towards one week or two weeks as space and budget allow.

Quick water target calculator

Household	3 days	7 days	14 days	30 days
1 person	12 L	28 L	56 L	120 L
2 people	24 L	56 L	112 L	240 L
4 people	48 L	112 L	224 L	480 L
6 people	72 L	168 L	336 L	720 L

Based on 4 litres per person per day for drinking, simple food preparation and very basic hygiene. Add extra for babies, medical needs and pets.

1. Work out your water needs

- ☐ Count every person in your household.
- ☐ Include children, elderly relatives and regular visitors.
- ☐ Add a separate allowance for pets.
- ☐ Use 3 to 4 litres per person per day as a practical target.
- ☐ Build a 3-day supply first, then aim for 7 days and 14 days.

2. Store ready-to-drink water

- ☐ Buy bottled water for immediate drinking.
- ☐ Use 5-litre bottles for simple home storage.
- ☐ Keep smaller bottles for children, bedside use, cars or grab bags.
- ☐ Store bottles in a cool, dark place.
- ☐ Keep water away from fuel, paint, chemicals and strong smells.
- ☐ Rotate older bottles into normal use.

3. Use safe containers

- ☐ Choose food-grade containers for drinking water.
- ☐ Avoid old chemical containers, fuel cans and garden sprayers.
- ☐ Wash and rinse containers before filling.
- ☐ Label each container with the filling date.
- ☐ Use several manageable containers instead of one very heavy one.
- ☐ Refresh stored tap water every six months.

4. Plan for non-drinking water

- ☐ Store water for washing, cleaning and toilet flushing.
- ☐ Use rainwater, older stored water or water butt supplies for these jobs.
- ☐ Label non-drinking water clearly.
- ☐ Keep drinking water separate from cleaning and toilet water.
- ☐ Do not waste safe drinking water on jobs that do not need it.

5. Add backup options

- ☐ Keep purification tablets in your emergency kit.
- ☐ Store a reliable water filter for rainwater or uncertain sources.
- ☐ Check the filter instructions before you need it.
- ☐ Make sure you have a safe way to boil water during a power cut.
- ☐ Consider a water butt if you have suitable outdoor space.
- ☐ Keep collapsible containers for short-notice filling.

6. Maintain your supply

- ☐ Check stored water every three months.
- ☐ Look for leaks, cracks, damaged seals, loose lids or bulging bottles.
- ☐ Inspect shelves and storage areas for damp.
- ☐ Clean refillable containers before refilling.
- ☐ Review your quantities once a year.
- ☐ Update your plan when your household changes.

Notes and rotation dates