

### **Where to store water:**

It is best to store water indoors in a shady environment, both to protect the storage container and the water. Keep water barrels off of cement or bare floors by using a series of 2x4 or 2x6 studs. It is best to store water away from light, especially for clear containers.

### **Water Storage Options:**

**Plastic Water Barrels and Containers** – These containers are food grade and large in size to help store water for drinking, food preparation and washing. Make sure that containers are cleaned or sanitized prior to use. Place containers on 2" x 4" boards or 2" x 6" boards to create air space below the barrels or containers.

**Clear Plastic Bottles** – Clear plastic soda pop or juice bottles that are cleaned or sanitized work well for small amounts of water. These containers are food grade plastic. **Do not use old bleach or milk jugs!**

**Mylar Bags in a Box** – Sealed Mylar bags in a box will often feature a spigot from the Mylar bag leading out of the box.

**Water Heater** – Don't forget that your water heater has 30 – 80 gallons of water in it depending on the size. However, to ensure the quality of the water, close the inlet valve immediately after the water supply has been disrupted.

### **Using the Stored Water**

Even when taking steps to ensure your water quality, it is advisable to acquire a hand-held or household water filtration unit. Quality household units are manufactured by Berkey, AquaRain, Katadyn and Sawyer. These are gravity fed units. Quality hand-held units are manufactured by Katadyn, Sawyer, MSR and AquaMira.

Aerating stored water will help improve taste. This can be done by pouring the water back and forth between two containers for several minutes. This helps to add air back to water and dissipate the chlorine.

### **Using Stored Water that you think has been contaminated**

Hand-held or household water filtration units can filter water down to 0.2-0.3 microns. These filters remove impurities and bacteria.

If you don't have a filter, use a clean cloth or clean towel to strain out any large impurities and then boil water for 3-5 minutes. This will help to kill water born bacterial organisms.