

Michigan Department of Licensing and Regulatory Affairs  
Bureau of Community and Health Systems  
Environmental Health and Safety Section

**Guidance for Bottled Water Storage for Emergency Planning**  
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- Emergency water supply should be stored in sealed, undamaged bottles or containers. The water supply should be commercially prepared, purchased from a supplier or vendor approved for the sale of food products, and with all other regulatory labeling intact and indicating the manufacturer information. Any opened and/or unlabeled water supply must be single patient use and disposed of within 24 hours.
- Water supply should be kept in a cool dry place, out of direct sunlight, and in a location not subject to freezing. Water bottles or containers should be stacked no higher than recommended by the manufacturer. If a large amount of water is stored, the structure of the floor must be sufficiently sound to support the weight.
- Commercially-bottled water manufacturers may mark a “sell by” date of 2 years after bottling. This "sell by" date serves as a stock-keeping reminder for stock rotation purposes in retail establishments. This date does not imply that the product is compromised or that water quality deteriorates after that date.
- Emergency water supply should meet the following:
  - a. Packaged in accordance with FDA processing and good manufacturing practices (21 CFR part 129)  
<https://www.accessdata.fda.gov/scripts/cdrh/cfdocs/cfCFR/CFRSearch.cfm?CFRPart=129>

- b. Meets FDA quality standard provisions as outlined in 21CFR, part 165  
[https://www.accessdata.fda.gov/scripts/cdrh/cfdocs/cfcfr/cfrs\\_earch.cfm?fr=165.110](https://www.accessdata.fda.gov/scripts/cdrh/cfdocs/cfcfr/cfrs_earch.cfm?fr=165.110)
  - c. Meets standards for the removal of *Cryptosporidium* if used by immune compromised patients who are at risk for severe infection from this organism. More information is available in CDC's Guidelines for Preventing Opportunistic Infection Among Hematopoietic Stem Cell Transplant Recipients (2000)  
<http://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/PDF/rr/rr4910.pdf>
  - d. Has not been opened.
- Use of tap water or water from other sources that is placed in containers and disinfected onsite (i.e., not commercially bottled) cannot be used for potable (drinking) water but may be used as a supply for non-potable water. This non-potable water could be used in the facility for other purposes, such as flushing toilets, in the event of loss of water. Such containers should be clearly marked as non-potable water.

Other Notes of Interest:

- Disposable water bottles are made from polyethylene terephthalate (PET, recycling number 1). PET is a stable type of plastic. There should not be problems with storing bottles in sunlight.
- Bottled water manufacturers are regulated by the FDA and must follow requirements for testing, bottling, and packaging water. The sanitary packaging and the quality of the water when it is bottled under the required good manufacturing practices should ensure that water bottles can be safely stored in sunlight, although prolonged exposure to sunlight could possibly affect the taste. To avoid, bottles can be covered with dark plastic, paper, or fabric.

- Bottled water manufacturers may voluntarily choose to print expiration dates on their products, but the FDA does not require expiration dates. If consumers have concerns about their bottled water, they can contact the manufacturer or the FDA consumer complaint line at 313-393-8189.