WATER HAULING & SAFETY

NEW MEXICO DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

Source of water for hauling	Recommended
Public Water Supply	✓
Bottled Water	✓
Water hauled from a river, lake, spring or a private well	***Not recommended***

Type of container to haul/store drinking water

- Use a food-grade water storage container that has a top that can be closed tightly.
- Never use a container that has previously been used for anything that is toxic (bleach, pesticides, etc.).
- If you decide to re-use storage containers, choose 2-liter plastic soft drink bottles (not plastic jugs or cardboard containers that have had milk or fruit juice in them since milk protein and fruit sugars cannot be adequately removed from these containers and provide an environment for bacterial growth).
- A container with a narrow mouth, a lid, and a tap for water to come out is best to protect the water. When water is stored in a container with a wide mouth, it is easy to scoop out a drink with a cup—but if either the hand or the cup is not clean, it may contaminate the water, putting the people drinking it at risk of getting sick.
- Do not use glass containers, because they are heavy and may break.

Water should be hauled in containers such as the one pictured above because a hand cannot fit inside of it.

Water Hauling Regulation

The hauling of water that is intended for consumption by 25 or more people (or for 15 or more connections) for 60 or more days a year is regulated by the New Mexico Environment Department (NMED) Drinking Water Bureau.

If your water is provided by a water hauler, ensure that they are permitted by the NMED.

How to clean and sanitize containers for hauling

- Wash container with dish soap and warm water. Make sure that there is no residual soap.
- Make a sanitizing solution by adding 1 teaspoon (5 milliliters) of household liquid bleach (use bleach with no scent) to 1 quart (32 ounces or about 1 liter) of water.
- Pour sanitizing solution into the clean container, cap and shake well, making sure that the solution coats the entire inside of the container.
- Let sit 30 seconds, and then pour out solution.
- Let air dry OR rinse with clean water that has already been made safe, if available.

TREATING AND SANITIZING WATER

Water Treatment Technology	Effective at killing pathogens	Effective at removing metals
Disinfecting with bleach	**Yes** (some pathogens are resistant to chlorine)	**No**
Boiling for at least 5 minutes	**Yes**	**No** CAUTION: Will increase the concentrations of nitrates, metals or other chemicals.
Filtration	**Maybe***	**Maybe***
Distillation	**Yes**	**Yes**
Ultraviolet Light	**Yes**	**No**

* There are many different types of filters, please refer to www.nsf.org to ensure that removal claims are substantiated.

How to boil water or use bleach to kill pathogens

- If water is cloudy, first filter it through a clean cloth, paper towel, or coffee filter OR allow it to settle for 24 hrs.
- Draw off the clear water
- Boil or use bleach

How To boil

- Bring the clear water to a rolling boil for five minutes.
- Let the boiled water cool.
- Store the boiled water in clean sanitized containers with tight covers.

How To Use Bleach

(Use bleach that does not have an added scent, like lemon.)

- If water is clear, add 1/8 teaspoon (8 drops or about 0.75 milliliters) of household liquid bleach to 1 gallon (16 cups) of water. Mix well and wait 30 minutes or more before drinking.
- If water is still cloudy or not filtered. Add ¼ teaspoon of household liquid bleach to 1 gallon (16 cups) of water.

Cleaning and Using Household-Sized Water Storage Tanks

- **Household tanks need to be regularly cleaned and disinfected.**
- **Consider working with a company that has experience in safely cleaning and disinfecting large water tanks.**

Water Safety CAUTIONS!

- **Using bleach in an enclosed space can be dangerous!**
- **When using bleach, open windows and doors for ventilation. NEVER mix bleach with ammonia or other detergents or cleaners.**
- **NEVER use re-used detergent or other cleaner containers to store water or prepare sanitizing solution.**
- **Water taken directly from a surface water source (river, lake, spring, etc.) should be treated as if it is contaminated with pathogens.**

Learn more at:

- http://aces.nmsu.edu/pubs/_w/w-101/welcome.html
- http://www.cdc.gov/healthywater/emergency/drinking/making-water-safe.html
- http://www.cdc.gov/healthywater/pdf/emergency/09_202278-B_Make_Water_Safe_Flyer_508.pdf
- http://www.redcross.org/images/MEDIA_CustomProductCatalog/m4440181_Food_and_Water-English.revised_7-09.pdf
- http://www.cdc.gov/healthywater/pdf/global/the-water-people-drink-viewable-508.pdf

For health related questions call the New Mexico Department of Health: 888 878-8992 or Visit: https://nmtracking.org

For water related questions call the New Mexico Environment Department: 877-654-8720 or Visit: www.nmenv.state.nm.us