PREPPING EXPERT · PRINTABLE

Household bleach ratio card

Use plain, unscented household chlorine bleach (about 6% or 8.25% sodium hypochlorite). Not scented, splash-less or color-safe. Check the label; bleach weakens with age.

DRINKING WATER (WHEN YOU CANNOT BOIL IT)

WATER	6% BLEACH	8.25% BLEACH
1 quart / 1 liter	2 drops	2 drops
1 gallon	**8 drops**	**6 drops**
2 gallons	16 drops (¼ tsp)	12 drops (⅛ tsp)
4 gallons	⅓ tsp	¼ tsp
8 gallons	⅔ tsp	½ tsp

- Cloudy water: let it settle, filter through a clean cloth or coffee filter first
- Cloudy, colored or very cold water: double the dose
- Stir, wait 30 minutes. A slight chlorine smell means it worked
  no smell: dose again, wait 15 more minutes
- Boiling is better when you can: rolling boil for 1 minute, 3 minutes above 6,500 ft (2,000 m) (CDC; EPA says 5,000 ft)

CLEANING AFTER A FLOOD OR OUTAGE

JOB	MIX
Dishes and food-contact surfaces (wash and rinse first)	1 tablespoon bleach per 1 gallon clean water
Floors, sinks, toys, tools after floodwater	1 cup bleach per 5 gallons water
Undamaged food cans (remove labels, wash, dip, air dry, relabel)	1 cup bleach per 5 gallons water
Mold on hard surfaces (scrub, rinse, dry)	No more than 1 cup bleach per 1 gallon water

Never mix bleach with ammonia or any other cleaner. Open windows, wear gloves and eye protection, and follow the product label. Ratios from the US EPA (drinking water) and CDC (cleaning) emergency guidance; check your local health department's instructions during a boil-water notice.