Summit County Public Health

1100 Graham Road Circle ♦ Stow, Ohio 44224-2992
Phone: (330) 923-4891 ♦ Toll-free: 1 (877) 687-0002 ♦ Fax: (330) 923-7558
www.schd.org

PROCEDURES FOR DISINFECTING DRINKING WATER

If you know in advance that you will not have water, collect water in as many clean containers as you have. However, this water should be purified according to one of the following methods:

Boiling

Bring water to a rapid boil, and hold it there for 5 to 10 minutes.

Chlorination

Use liquid, unscented chlorine laundry bleach which contains 5.25% sodium hypochlorite (look for % on contents label) and follow the mixing procedure below:

Cold Water

1 gallon ..... add 8 drops of bleach with 5.25% sodium hypochlorite
5 gallons ..... add ¼ teaspoon of bleach with 5.25% sodium hypochlorite

Turbid or Cloudy Water

1 gallon ..... add 16 drops of bleach with 5.25% sodium hypochlorite
5 gallons ..... add ½ teaspoon bleach with 5.25% sodium hypochlorite
Add the bleach, mix the solution thoroughly and then allow to stand for 30 minutes before using.

Iodine

If you have a bottle of 2% tincture of iodine in your first aid kit, it can be used to purify water. For one gallon of clear water, add 20 drops of 2% tincture of iodine or 40 drops if the water is cloudy. Mix thoroughly and allow to stand for 30 minutes prior to use.

Purification Tablets

Halzone tablets, which release chlorine, can be used. These are usually available
at drug stores or sporting goods stores. Follow the directions on the label for proper use.