

*See disclaimer at end of document

Disinfecting water with household bleach (NOT POOL SHOCK)

If the water has debris in it, strain it as best you can through coffee filters, layers of fabric (t shirts), whatever you have. Then, add 8 drops (1/8 tsp) of liquid bleach per gallon of water. Stir well and let sit for 30 minutes before drinking. Water should have a slight chlorine smell to it. **Read below for reasons why household bleach is NOT the best idea.**

The problem with using store bought liquid bleach to disinfect water

From Clorox:

“We recommend storing our bleach at room temperatures. It can be stored for about 6 months at temperatures between 50 and 70 degrees Fahrenheit. After this time, bleach will begin to degrade at a rate of 20% each year until totally degraded to salt and water. Storing at temperatures much higher than 70 degrees Fahrenheit could cause the bleach to lose its effectiveness and degrade more rapidly. However, if you require 6% sodium hypochlorite, you should change your supply every 3 months.”

Bleach is unreliable for long term food storage and disaster preparedness due to this instability. Granular pool shock, however, can be used to mix up your own bleach and use while fresh.

Use Calcium Hypochlorite (pool shock) to Disinfect Water

A 1-pound bag of calcium hypochlorite in granular form will treat up to 10,000 gallons of drinking water

Calcium hypochlorite is an excellent chemical disinfectant for water, even better than household bleach. It is capable of killing bacteria, fungus, spores, viruses, and yeast.

This can be purchased as pool shock in granular form. The tablets will work as well but they are much more difficult to break up and measure out and these instructions are for the granular. I suggest purchasing a box of 5, 1lb bags of pool shock for around \$15. This is enough to disinfect around 50,000 gallons of water. Make sure you don't get any shock that has color granules in it, some is designed to help your water be blue.

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How to Disinfect Water Using Calcium Hypochlorite

This is a two step process. First, you have to make bleach. Then, you disinfect the water.

- To make bleach, stir 1 heaping teaspoon into two gallons of water until fully dissolved.
- Add 1 part of this solution for every 100 parts of water. (1 cup bleach solution to 100 cups water). For reference, a gallon has 16 cups.
- Let water sit for at least half an hour before drinking and make sure it has a light chlorine smell.

A 1 pound bag of calcium hypochlorite will treat around 10,000 gallons of water, which is enough for the average family for an entire year.

When kept in granular form, it will store a very long time in it's original sealed package and lasts much longer than liquid bleach, which begins losing it's strength after 6 months.

Disclaimer: This is written from research I did using the internet. Use this information at your own risk. I am not an expert in this field and have no scientific background. This is what I have printed off for my friends and family to use should the need arise but I take no responsibility for liability resulting from the information contained herein. It is pitiful that I have to say this mess, isn't it?