

## Using Bleach for Water Disinfection

Bleach is sold in various concentrations:

1% 3.5% 5.25% and perhaps others

**Clear water** normally needs one drop of 5.25% bleach in one liter (quart). That will leave a slight taste.

1% 5 drops per liter

3.5% 3 drops per liter

Allow treated water to sit for 15-20 minutes before drinking.

For greater safety, add a bit more, **especially if the water is cloudy**.

The taste is not so much the chlorine, but mostly from reactions with organic matter in the water.

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For traveling:

- take a medicine dropper bottle that **DOES NOT LEAK**
- fill one-third of the bottle with 5.25% chlorine bleach
- fill the other two-thirds with water to get a one to two mix

For drinking, add one drop of that mixture to an 8-ounce = 250 milliliter glass of water (cold or room temperature), stir, and allow to sit 15—20 minutes before drinking.

There will be a taste – better than an illness.

To carry into the field and for toothbrushing, add 3-4 drops to a liter bottle, or an appropriate proportion to another sized bottle. While 15-20 minutes should be enough, sitting overnight, even in a refrigerator, will definitely ensure adequate germ killing time. Plastic, commercial water bottles of any size can be recycled for this use until discarded at the end of a trip.

Initial cleaning of fresh foods can be done with about 10 drops of 5.25% chlorine bleach per liter of water.

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The Jarrett family has used these methods successfully for many decades.