

## **TIPS: Emergency Water Supply**

Hello. Hello. Welcome to *Sunday Snacks with Ellie And Sam*.

**Ellie:** Yeah. And that's not 'sunny' snacks. It's 'Sunday' snacks,

**Sam:** Sunny - Sunday, potato – patat... whatever.

Speaking of enunciating clear words, we are near Baltimore. Some people say watah, warter, water ... (Ellie) or H<sub>2</sub>O, There are different ways of saying things. If we're looking at the periodic table and all, the thing we're talking about today is water.

I know that I've had, since I've lived in my house currently for four years, I've lost my water more times than the fingers and toes on my body. And that's saying something in a very small town of no more than 15,000 people that I've lost my water supply. And I'm on the city water supply - more than 20 times! Hmm.

At least three of those times were within the first six months of me moving in. It was because the pipe out front of my house broke.

**Ellie:** How long were you without water?

**Sam:** I was without water for 72 hours.

**Ellie:** Wow. That's a challenge.

**Sam:** Yeah. So, and it wasn't necessarily because by the time the water got back on, it wasn't necessarily clean.

It has to run for a while. I had it back within 48 hours. I can't quite remember, but we still had brown-ish water for a couple of days. Yeah. And that was basically for brand new pipes, which was nice because they were old pipes that needed replaced, but that left us high and dry *literally*.

So one of the things that I've learned in talking to Ellie about *Beyond TP and Milk* and what our idea of really just helping support you, the average individual, not the zombie apocalypse or the homesteader or the prepper, who's ready to take on the world?

We're talking about the average person and how to handle if water goes out. Hurricanes happen, you know, those kinds of things,

**Ellie:** Those inconveniences that can happen for a variety of really basic reasons.

**Sam:** Yeah. Yeah. And one of those in my life has obviously been losing water - a lot. One of the things that Ellie taught me a long time ago, and I kind of knew this, but again, I was little when I learned it, that you could get water out of your water heater.

You want to talk about that?

**Ellie:** It's just that there's a spigot on your water heater that you can hook a hose to or slide a bucket under. That water is the same water that comes into your sink. So, it should be safe to drink as well as wash and whatever. Most people, I have a small water heater here (in this apartment), but most people have what... 50 gallon or so?

That's valid (potable) water. Also I was telling Sam that I just recently read, first of all, we would normally tell people if you knew a storm was coming and, like in the south where they know it's pretty good odds that they're going to be without electric for a given period of time, they're probably not going to have running water or it would be bad.

You can fill up your tub with water and that water, if you know the contaminated water doesn't get in, and you'll be able to use that water to cook in and wash with.

Also, you can buy a bladder, a plastic bladder that fits in a tub that you can fill up with water, This would then keep all the contaminants out of it. So that's a substantial amount of water if you're in those zones where you periodically are left without water or clean water for, you know, a week or two.

Of course you can store water. I haven't gotten into really storing.

**Sam:** I'm only just starting that. That's like one of my baby projects because I have chickens.

One of our big things is if we lose water, what am I going to do to take care of my livestock? So, at the end of the day, (**Ellie:** if they haven't blown away with OZ – haha). Yeah. Knock on wood. But yeah, the idea is I want to do rain capture and, therefore, have rain barrels next to my chicken coop enabled in order to be able to utilize that kind of water.

The great part is, is they can use (drink) gray water. It's not going to hurt them because they are livestock. They're used to it. It's not going to be contaminated because we don't use anything. It'd be nice, obviously, if I could get a better filtration process on it, but right now it's - their chickens and the runoffs coming directly off a flat roof.

**Ellie:** In essence, if you have enough of it, you can, you can boil it or use it for cleaning, you know washing your hands and face or whatever because it should be good water as far as that goes.

**Sam:** Yeah. And growing up where I lived in Lancaster county, Pennsylvania, we would lose water because we were on a well, a lot when we would have electrical storms in the summer. And it's really inconvenient when it's hot out, you've already don't have air conditioning. And even though you might have your fans on and everything, it's still hot. You might want to like use a sponge bath or something.

That was always one of the things for me growing up, that we knew the storm coming. We always filled the tub. So for those of you that don't know that, I mean, it's a great way to flush

your toilets, even fill the tub up, and then you can still use your toilets with ease and you, or the water directly from like a pitcher into the toilet to have everything flushed down with ease.

Right. But that's some of the,

**Ellie:** This is really something that lots of people don't know, but you can just take a pan of water and use it to flush your toilet.

**Sam:** Yeah.

**Ellie:** Which makes life a lot easier if you're stuck in your house for several days, especially if there's more than one person.

**Sam:** Yeah. I can't imagine that with all my family, that would be everybody go poop and then we flush. No different than being in a latrine - camping.

One of the other things that I learned from Ellie, which I thought was really interesting and I often forgot about, but my grandmother did it instinctively and I never put two and two together until you brought it up, if you are cooking and you are without water, one of the things you can do is use the water in your canned goods.

You want to talk a little bit more about that because it baffled my mind when you said it. I'm like, oh...

**Ellie:** well, we don't think sometimes, but one of the reasons preppers encourage you to have canned goods on hand is, if your water supply gets low, you can drink the juice that's in the green beans or anything like that.

Or use it to cook with rather than using your drinking water. Maybe your mashed potatoes taste a little different, but if you're hungry, it'll be fine.

**Sam:** Yes, it'll all be fine. All those the same place,

**Ellie:** All of that is additional liquid to add that you can, you can swallow, it's safe to drink. A lot of people think of that as being an important part of your water supply. If it extends beyond what you have stored at your house.

**Sam:** I like soup, say in the winter, instead of, even though I might not have my electric outlet, I could use the liquid from like a can of soup, not a an of soup - a can of corn to add to the liquid that I'm already making in my soup stock. So, it's just one more thing to think about.

I know when I make stuff like chili, I pour the beans out in a strainer and I clean them off with fresh water. But if I was in a pinch that now becomes my liquid. Right, right. So that, I mean, that works out really well, but I hadn't really thought of that as a long-term solution if we really ever needed it.

And now that's one of those go-to in the back of my mind.

**Ellie:** Then in addition, if in your go-bag, you have Life Straws™ or something like that, those are all things that you can utilize. If there's water anywhere near you, the Life Straws™ will clean the water. So that you can drink it. Also, I think it's important to note that, I don't remember the exact amount, I'll look it up. But I believe like a ~~tablespoon~~ **actually it's more like 8 drops of 6% bleach to a gallon of water** - or something of Clorox (5 or 6% UNSCENTED chlorine bleach) in your water will clean a gallon of water. (Those 8 drops is about 1/8 teaspoon!!! Stir and let stand for 30 minutes or until the odor is gone and the taste is cleaner)

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**Sam:** It might be less than that is a tablespoon. Seems like why, Well, your, but your household bleach isn't is only like my percent. Yeah. If you leave the cap off of your gallon jug the chlorine kills bacteria and the smell dissipates.

So, you might smell it when you first put it in, but you won't smell it later. It's gone. But that's also a consideration for those short-term durations, where for instance, the water in the tap, you may want to do that. If it's been sitting in a tub for a day or two, it just might feel safer about it.

I'll look up when we do the post to make sure I have the right amount, but almost everybody has chlorine bleach in their house.

**Sam:** And just so you know, one of the things recommended by FEMA is that you have a gallon of water per person per day. That includes pets, too. Think about that when you're looking at long-term storage plans or long-term water solutions.

Again, I'm not the biggest fan of if I had to have a month supply, what that number looks like in my house of gallons of water, where I'd rather invest in something like a Life Straws™ system or a water filtration system, just if I was living in an area that I would put, that I had water and I would lose it frequently from my sustainable water supply, I would want to have that for my sustainable water source.

So, all things to think about, if you have any questions, let us know. We're here and we're always learning. So that's the great part of this is that we're learning by doing and practicing what we preach. We've shown you and explained to you a variety of different things. These are not things that we're making up.

These are things that we are actually putting into practice in our own home.

**Ellie:** And when you're doing this, you can think about what happens where you live. If you have hurricanes frequently, that's going to be different than when we get one every three years or something that actually affects us. But we all get storms that, snowstorms or summer storms that may last for three days or whatever.

So, starting out, just like with the 30-day food supply, starting out just think of it in terms of three days to a week. Don't make yourself crazy fretting over it. Just start thinking of ways that starts to set you up. Looking around your house and saying, oh, we could put water in the sink, and we could put water in that sink and in the tub. We would be prepared then. None of that efforts wasted. I mean, you can, you can use it and you know, if you, if you don't need it, then you can put it down the drain.

**Sam:** Yeah. Or water your house plants. Exactly. So, factor Enjoy. Have a great one. Thank you. Plan ahead.

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