PRINTABLE CHECKLIST

How much water should you store for a power cut? UK emergency guide

Store 3 litres of drinking water per person per day for three days, which is 9 litres each and 36 litres for a family of four. That is the UK government's Be Ready figure, and it covers drinking only, so keep more for cooking and washing if you can. Use sealed bottles or food-grade containers kept cool and dark, and refresh home-filled water every six months.

- [ ] Work out your total: people x 3 litres x 3 days, plus extra for cooking and washing
- [ ] Buy sealed bottled water, a few bottles per shop, until you reach the total
- [ ] Add pets' daily water and extra for babies, illness or hot weather
- [ ] Use food-grade containers only, rinsed, filled from the cold tap and dated
- [ ] Store water cool, dark, off bare concrete and away from fuel and chemicals
- [ ] Split the store between two places in case of a leak
- [ ] Mark drinking and non-drinking containers differently
- [ ] Keep a pack of purification tablets matched to your container size
- [ ] Keep a battery radio so you hear boil water or do not drink notices
- [ ] Check dates and refresh home-filled containers every six months
- [ ] If a long cut starts and taps still run, fill pans, jugs and the bath
- [ ] Know whether your flat or private supply relies on an electric pump