

ILLUSTRATED STEPS / SAVE IT. FIND IT. BUILD IT.

WATER

Turn a clean cloth and a pot into a useful first step. Then learn what actually kills germs.



START HERE

01

GET READY

Tools + clickable build map

02

FOLLOW THE STEPS

One clearly numbered stage at a time

03

FIND IT AGAIN

Quick reference + PDF bookmarks

Catch sediment. Boil appropriately. Protect the cooled water. This is not a chemical or radiation treatment system.

NUKE ON TIKTOK

MORE FREE BUILD GUIDES

SOURCES / CDC - How to Make Water Safe in an Emergency

BUILD MAP

NEXT

YOUR BUILD MAP

Tap a step to jump there. The printed page numbers work offline too.

HAVE THESE READY

- Untreated-water bucket
- Clean cloth; optional cord
- Stable cooking pot and clean lid
- Suitable heat source and timer
- Sanitized food-grade container with tight cover

BEFORE YOU START

Follow local water advisories first. Boiling does not fix chemical or radioactive contamination.

READ IN ORDER

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QUICK REFERENCE / PAGE 14

KEEP THIS COPY

Save the PDF with its guide ID. Use the build map, bookmarks, or your PDF reader's search to find a step later. Video and source links need internet; the instructions do not.

BUILD MAP

PREVIOUS

NEXT

SETUP

Listen before you collect

READ BEFORE STEP 01

PREP

The useful first move is finding out what happened to the water. Nuke starts with the local advisory, not the nearest puddle.



CHOOSE A SUITABLE SUPPLY

- **Use unopened bottled water when available.**
- Follow your local health department or water utility.
- Boiling can address germs, but cannot make water contaminated with fuel, toxic chemicals, or radioactive materials safe.
- Do not collect water from the illustrated oily puddle.

KNOW THE LIMIT

- **A do-not-use notice is not an invitation to boil.**
- If the advice or contamination is unclear, use another safe supply and ask local officials.
- Appearance alone cannot tell you whether water is safe.
- This guide covers sediment preparation and boiling only when appropriate.

SOURCES / CDC - How to Make Water Safe in an Emergency · CDC - Use Safe Water During an Emergency

BUILD MAP

PREVIOUS

NEXT

SETUP

Give dirty and clean separate jobs

READ BEFORE STEP 01

PREP

A little preparation prevents the finished water from meeting the dirty equipment again. Set everything out before you start.



THE WORKING SIDE

- **Gather the untreated-water bucket, a clean cloth, a stable cooking pot, and a timer.**
- Stage a suitable heat source separately.
- Keep the pot away from heat during cloth work.
- A cord can secure the cloth; it must come off before heating.

THE FINISHED SIDE

- **Set aside a clean, sanitized food-grade container with a tight cover.**
- Follow the CDC storage instructions linked below for preparation.
- Never use a container that held toxic chemicals.
- Keep its opening and cover clean, and leave it out of the dirty-water work area.

SOURCES / CDC - How to Make Water Safe in an Emergency · CDC - Create an Emergency Water Supply

BUILD MAP

PREVIOUS

NEXT

STEP

Fit the cloth over the pot

1 OF 7 / READ IN ORDER

01

The cloth is a simple sediment catcher. Build it over a steady pot while everything is cool.



MAKE A SHALLOW POCKET

- **Spread a clean cloth across the pot opening with a slight dip in the middle.**
- Leave enough cloth over the rim to hold it securely.
- A cord around the outside can help keep it in place during a slow pour.

CHECK THE SETUP

- **Keep the pot flat on a stable surface.**
- Ensure the cloth will stay above the collected water rather than slipping inside.
- Start with a small pour and stop if anything shifts.
- This setup prepares cloudy water for treatment; it does not disinfect it.

SOURCES / CDC - How to Make Water Safe in an Emergency · CDC - Household Water Treatment

BUILD MAP

PREVIOUS

NEXT

STEP

Pour slowly through the center

2 OF 7 / READ IN ORDER

02

Let the cloth catch visible particles while the water drains into the pot. A controlled pour keeps the arrangement steady.



KEEP THE FLOW MANAGEABLE

- **Pour the cloudy water slowly into the shallow cloth pocket.**
- Pause if water collects faster than it drains.
- Do not overfill the pot or let water run over the cloth edge.
- Stop and reset if the cloth starts to slip.

KEEP THE RESULT SEPARATE

- **Avoid spilling untreated water onto the finished-water container.**
- Leave enough space in the pot for later boiling.
- The water underneath may look clearer, but it is still untreated.
- Do not drink it or use it to fill the clean storage container yet.

SOURCES / CDC - How to Make Water Safe in an Emergency · CDC - Household Water Treatment

BUILD MAP

PREVIOUS

NEXT

NOTE

The grit stopped. The job did not.

KEEP THESE LIMITS WITH THE STEPS

REF

The useful visible change is sediment caught in the cloth. The important invisible problem may still be in the pot.



WHAT THE CLOTH DID

- **The cloth catches some debris and larger particles.**
- It can make cloudy water clearer before boiling.
- The amount caught depends on the water and cloth; a neat-looking result does not demonstrate a particular level of purification.

WHAT IT DID NOT DO

- **Cloth does not reliably remove disease-causing germs.**
- It also does not solve fuel, toxic chemical, or radioactive contamination.
- Continue only if boiling is appropriate for the source and local advice.
- Otherwise stop and obtain another safe supply.

SOURCES / CDC - How to Make Water Safe in an Emergency · CDC - Household Water Treatment

BUILD MAP

PREVIOUS

NEXT

STEP

Lift the cloth away first

3 OF 7 / READ IN ORDER

03

The pre-strainer has finished its job. Remove it completely before the pot goes near a burner.



KEEP THE GRIT OUT

- **Undo the securing cord, if used.**
- Lift the cloth carefully so the caught sediment stays inside it.
- Set the used cloth and cord aside with the dirty-water equipment.
- Do not squeeze debris back into the pot or place the cloth over a flame.

PREPARE A SAFE HEATING SPOT

- **An adult handles the pot and hot water.**
- Use a stable cooking surface and keep children clear.
- Outdoor stoves belong outdoors only, never in a tent, vehicle, or building.
- Follow the stove instructions and any local restrictions on its use.

SOURCES / CDC - How to Make Water Safe in an Emergency · CDC - Protect Yourself During a Power Outage

BUILD MAP

PREVIOUS

NEXT

STEP

Start the clock at a rolling boil

4 OF 7 / READ IN ORDER

04

When boiling is appropriate, heat does the germ-killing work. A few bubbles on the bottom are not the starting signal.



REACH THE RIGHT STAGE

- **Bring the clear water to a full rolling boil.**
- Then maintain the boil for one minute.
- Above 6,500 feet elevation, use three minutes.
- Follow any more specific local instructions.
- Use a timer so the full treatment time is deliberate.

KEEP THE WORK CONTROLLED

- **Keep the pot stable and your hands and face clear of steam.**
- Do not leave it unattended.
- Remember that boiling treats germs; it does not make chemical or radioactive contamination safe.
- If the source is unsuitable, a longer boil is not a solution.

SOURCES / CDC - How to Make Water Safe in an Emergency · CDC - Household Water Treatment

BUILD MAP

PREVIOUS

NEXT

STEP

Give the heat time to leave

5 OF 7 / READ IN ORDER

05

After the full boiling time, switch off the heat. Keep the treated water protected while it cools safely.



LET IT COOL IN PLACE

- **Avoid carrying or pouring a pot of scalding water when it can cool safely where it is.**
- Keep children, pets, and loose objects away.
- Use the clean pot lid to protect the water; handle the lid and pot carefully because they can remain hot.

PROTECT THE NEXT STEP

- **Keep the used cloth, untreated water, and dirty utensils away from the cooling pot.**
- Do not speed things up by adding untreated water or ice of uncertain safety.
- Prepare the clean storage container nearby, leaving its opening protected until transfer.

SOURCES / CDC - How to Make Water Safe in an Emergency · CDC - Create an Emergency Water Supply

BUILD MAP

PREVIOUS

NEXT

STEP

Pour cooled water into clean storage

6 OF 7 / READ IN ORDER

06

The water is treated and cooled. Now keep the transfer as clean and controlled as the rest of the process.



USE THE PREPARED CONTAINER

- **Pour the cooled water into a clean, sanitized food-grade container with a tight-fitting cover.**
- Keep your fingers away from its opening and inside surfaces.
- Use a manageable amount of water and a stable surface so the pour stays under control.

CLOSE THE LOOP

- **Close the cover promptly.**
- Do not send the treated water through the used cloth again.
- Keep the container separate from the original bucket and dirty tools.
- If a spill or dirty utensil contaminates the supply, do not assume the earlier boiling still protects it.

SOURCES / CDC - How to Make Water Safe in an Emergency · CDC - Create an Emergency Water Supply

BUILD MAP

PREVIOUS

NEXT

STEP

Keep the cover on between pours

7 OF 7 / READ IN ORDER

07

Nuke has built a useful process: catch sediment, treat germs with heat when appropriate, and protect the cooled result.



USE IT WITHOUT UNDOING IT

- **Pour water out instead of dipping hands into the supply.**
- Keep the container covered between uses and store it in a cool place away from sunlight and toxic substances.
- Label stored emergency water with the date, following the CDC storage guidance.

KEEP CHECKING THE SITUATION

- **The finished bottle is not a certificate for an unknown source.**
- Continue following local advisories.
- If fuel, chemicals, or radioactive contamination is suspected, use another safe supply.
- This small setup does not replace water testing or instructions from public-health officials.

SOURCES / CDC - Create an Emergency Water Supply · CDC - How to Make Water Safe in an Emergency · CDC - Use Safe Water During an Emergency

BUILD MAP

PREVIOUS

NEXT

NOTE

Three jobs. Keep them distinct.

KEEP THESE LIMITS WITH THE STEPS

REF

Use this sequence only when boiling is suitable for the source and local instructions. The drawings show actions, not a test of water safety.



REMEMBER THE BOUNDARIES

- **Cloth catches sediment; it does not disinfect.**
- A rolling boil treats germs: one minute, or three above 6,500 feet.
- Cooling and clean covered storage protect the result.
- None of these steps makes chemical or radioactive contamination safe.

FOLLOW THE PRIMARY GUIDANCE

- **The CDC links below explain emergency treatment, household methods, storage, and advisories.**
- Checked September 7, 2026.
- Local official directions take precedence.
- Nuke is fictional; CDC has not endorsed this guide.

SOURCES / CDC - How to Make Water Safe in an Emergency · CDC - Household Water Treatment · CDC - Create an Emergency Water Supply · CDC - Use Safe Water During an Emergency

QUICK REFERENCE

Read the full steps first. Tap any row to return to its instructions.

BEFORE STEP 01

Follow local water advisories first. Boiling does not fix chemical or radioactive contamination.

- 01

Fit the cloth

Secure it over the pot, away from heat. Stop if the setup shifts.

P05
- 02

Strain slowly

Pour through the center. Clearer water is still untreated.

P06
- 03

Remove cloth before heating

Remove the cloth and cord. Outdoor stoves stay outdoors.

P08
- 04

Boil and time

Full rolling boil: 1 minute; 3 minutes above 6,500 feet.

P09
- 05

Cool under a clean cover

Do not add untreated water or uncertain ice.

P10
- 06

Transfer cleanly and close

Use sanitized food-grade storage. Do not re-use the dirty cloth.

P11
- 07

Protect the supply

Keep covered. Pour out water; do not dip hands into it.

P12

NUKE SAYS

Keep the method. Keep checking the source. Preferably before the sip.

SOURCES / CDC - How to Make Water Safe in an Emergency · CDC - Household Water Treatment · CDC - Create an Emergency Water Supply · CDC - Use Safe Water During an Emergency