



Urban Survival: Water Tips

with Jeff Anderson for www.ModernCombatAndSurvival.com

Finding Water In Urban Areas

The “Survival Law Of 3’s” states:

“You can survive 3 minutes without air... 3 days without water... and 3 weeks without food.”

- This shows the importance finding clean, drinkable water is to your and your family’s very survival.
- While finding water in the wilderness can be as simple as coming across a stream, urban environments have a lot of challenges.
- There are 3 types of “urban survival water”:

1. Stored Water

Prior planning of your stockpile is the easiest and most reliable resource.

- Store away cases of water in bottles; 5 gal. water cooler bottles; and/or [water bricks](#).
- Connect rainwater barrels to downspouts to catch rainwater for later use – esp. for dishes, showers, etc.
- When a crisis hits, if you still have clean, running water at home, fill up all bathtubs, sinks, empty containers while you still can.

2. “Hidden” Water

You might be surprised where you already have water to drink.

- Hot water heaters
- Pools/hot tubs
- Back of toilets
- Trapped in exposed water pipes

Use these sources first to conserve smaller bottles.

3. Scavenged Water

Outside of your home, there are many locations you can get resupply from:

- Same “hidden” locations in other homes/buildings
- Military/FEMA/Red Cross stations (but be careful; security is critical!)
- Fire sprinkler tanks on buildings
- Business water coolers

Survival Factor 1: Purification

Make sure the water you’re drinking is truly “clean”!

- Even clear mountain streams have bacteria that can kill you if you get sick.
- Assume ALL unchecked water resources need to be purified

Survival Factor 2: Conservation

Conserve water to make it last!

- **At home**, limit activity so you don’t need to drink as much
- Use alternative toilets w/o water
- **Bugging out**, use alternate means of travel if a vehicle is no longer an option. A bike can get you farther and with less effort – needing less water to rehydrate you.
- Travel at night to avoid sweating more

Survival Factor 3: Mobility

3 days of water weighs 72-120 lbs!

- You must be able to “manufacture” clean water at-will with an in-line filter attached to container in bugout bag.