



Republic of the Philippines
Department of Health

FOOD AND DRUG ADMINISTRATION



23 August 2013

FDA Advisory
No. 2013-028

**SUBJECT :ADVISORY ON DISINFECTION OF NON-POTABLE WATER USING
FDA-REGISTERED HOUSEHOLD BLEACHING PRODUCTS AS
EMERGENCY MEASURE**

Commercial products containing chlorine compounds as household bleaching agents are registered with the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) under household hazardous substances. It is approved for bleaching of clothes and disinfecting inanimate articles. In case of emergencies, these products may actually be used to render non-potable water contaminated with disease-causing microbes suitable for drinking.

Consumers are hereby advised to follow or consider the following guidelines in emergency situations.

If provisions for boiling water is available, do not use household bleaching agents for disinfecting non-potable water.

If water is turbid or cloudy, it is best to allow small particles to settle first and then filter the water, excluding the particles that settled, through a clean cloth. The filtrate can either be boiled or disinfected with the chlorine bleaching agent.

For proper disinfection, add two (2) drops of regular household bleaching agent for each liter of water, stir it well and let it stand for 30 minutes before you use it. Store the remaining treated water in clean containers with cover.

If a large volume will be chlorinated, it is best to chlorinate the water overnight in a container with a loose cover then drink it the following day. It allows chlorine to act on the microbes well enough and allows it to evaporate.

Do not use flood water for boiling or disinfection with bleaching agents. You may use rainwater that has been collected in containers.





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Unregistered household bleaching products may contain chlorine that are below the FDA standard or product label claim. Consumers are advised to buy only FDA-registered household bleaching products. The information is available in the FDA website (www.fda.gov.ph).

For more information regarding the product and its used as water disinfectant, please email us via info@fda.gov.ph. To report any unregistered health product in the market, please email us via report@fda.gov.ph.


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Main reference: <http://water.epa.gov/drink/emmerprep/emergencydisinfection.cfm>

