



**CHARLOTTE COUNTY**

Utilities

# **HURRICANE PREPAREDNESS**

## **Essential Utilities Guide**

# SEWER

## Toilets

*In cases where indoor facilities are unavailable, the following process can be utilized for an emergency toilet system:*

1. Line a 5-gallon bucket with a heavy-duty trash bag.
2. Add a disinfectant and/or deodorant to reduce odor and harmful microorganism growth.
3. To prevent tears, replace the bag before it is a quarter full.
4. Close used bags and store in another lined bucket or trashcan with a lid until proper disposal is available.
5. Clean and disinfect bucket between bags and keep sealed when not in use.

## Indoor Toilet Use

If water services are unavailable, stored water can be utilized to flush toilets. However, sewer pumping units may be damaged or without power even in cases where water services have been restored. Limit the amount of toilet flushing to reduce the risk of wastewater overflowing back into your home.

Additionally, you can drain your indoor toilet and line the bowl with a heavy-duty trash bag using a similar method to the emergency toilets.

# WATER

## Purification

A storm can cause disruption to water treatment plants and distribution lines, which may result in contaminated water. Until notified otherwise, you should treat your water as unsafe following a severe storm and disinfect it before use by humans or pets. Disinfect by:

### Boiling

*This is the preferred and safest method of water purification when available.*

1. Bring water to a rolling boil and continue to boil for at least one minute.
2. Allow water to cool completely before use or storage to prevent burns.

## Chemical Treatment

*If boiling is not an option, water can be purified chemically.*

1. Add 1/8 teaspoon of unscented household liquid bleach per one gallon of water. If water is cloudy, double the amount of bleach.
2. Mix well and let sit uncovered for at least 30 minutes before use or storage.

## Storage

While Charlotte County Utilities works diligently to repair services, it may take some time before normal service is fully restored. During this time, water conservation is vital. To help conserve water after a storm, prepare by storing a supply of water beforehand.

The recommended amount of purified water to have on hand before a storm is a seven-day supply. Each person and pet in your household should be allocated one gallon per day.

## Purified Water

*Water that has been purified and will be consumed should be stored in a clean, sealable container.*

1. Use plastic, glass or fiberglass containers to avoid corrosion.
2. Sanitize containers by rinsing with a one part bleach to ten parts water solution and allow to air-dry.

## Sanitary Water

*If boiling is not an option, water can be purified chemically.*

Water that will be used for handwashing, bathing or flushing does not need to be purified first\*. To store water for sanitary purposes before a storm, first disinfect bathtubs and then fill with tap water.



# CHECKLIST

## Utilities To-Do:

*Complete right before a storm.*

- Sterilize and fill water containers.
- Ensure property fire hydrants and water meters are clear of debris and accessible.
- If you are evacuating, shut off your water before leaving your home.

## Utilities Supplies:

*Have on-hand before a storm.*

- 5-gallon buckets with fitted lids
- Unscented bleach
- Heavy-duty trash bags
- Deodorizer
- Water containers (jugs, bottles, buckets, etc.)

# CONTACT

## Charlotte County Utilities

941.764.4300  
[CharlotteCountyFL.gov](http://CharlotteCountyFL.gov)

## Know Your Zone

Check your evacuation zone at:

[CharlotteCountyFL.gov](http://CharlotteCountyFL.gov)  
under "Popular Links"

## Alert Charlotte

Sign up for Alert Charlotte to receive critical information during emergencies, at:

[AlertCharlotte.com](http://AlertCharlotte.com)