



## How to make water safe for drinking and cooking

Surface water and water from pipes, tanks and wells may be contaminated with cholera and other germs. This water should be carefully treated before drinking! The quickest ways are boiling, bleaching, and adding lime or lemon.

**No matter how it is treated it should be settled and filtered first, or the treatment may not work.**



### 1. Settle and filter the water:

- Let water settle until solids have settled out and water is more-or-less clear.
- Pour water through a filter made of clean fabric.

**To use a fabric filter:** Fold clean sari cloth 4 times and stretch or tie it over the mouth of a clean container. Pour water slowly into the container through the cloth. After using the cloth, wash it and leave it in the sun to dry, or disinfect the cloth with bleach to kill germs.

### 2. Boil or add bleach. If you have no bleach, use lime fruit:

#### Boiling

- Boil water until it bubbles vigorously for **2 minutes**.
- Pour water into a clean container to cool.

#### Use of bleach

- For small amounts, add 1 drop of household bleach (10% bleaching solution) per liter of drinking water, to kill all germs.

For larger amounts, add 1 teaspoonful (5 ml, or one capful if bottle has a screw cap) of household bleach to 20-25 liters of water.

**Thoroughly mix** solution with the water and allow to stand for at least 2 hours (preferably overnight) before use.

- Store water in a clean container.

#### Use of lime fruit

*(This method will not kill all germs, but is safer than no treatment at all and can prevent many cases of cholera)*

- Add the juice of 1 lime per liter of drinking water, to kill cholera germs.
- Pour water into a clean container.

### 3. Keep water containers clean

- Make sure the water storage container stays clean! Wash your hands with soap before touching it.
- Do not dip glasses into the water, lift the container and pour water out.