

How Much Food And Water You Actually Need To Store

Food and water are your main concerns during an SHTF event no matter how you look at it.

Your survival chances are also determined by the amount of food and water you managed to store. Storing these supplies is, in fact, one of the basics of emergency preparedness, and you need to take care of such tasks properly.

Establishing how much food and water one needs to store for proper survival is most times, a difficult task for most folks out there. However, this should be an easy-going process if you follow a few simple rules.

Any food and water storage begins with establishing how many people will be using those supplies during a crisis. If you have figured out the numbers, you are ready to begin with the next logical step. The one that requires you to estimate how much food and water you should store depending on the storage capacity you have available in your home.

FEMA recommends having a minimum of three day supply of food and water, but most Americans don't have those resources in their homes. Sure, they might stretch their readily-available supplies if needed, but that doesn't mean they will enjoy proper nutrition. Even those that have a week's worth of supplies will not last long and will depend on others to continue the fight to survive another day.

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Figuring out the caloric intake for your family

If you pay attention during your grocery shopping trip, you will notice that almost all commercially prepared food has a label indicating the serving size. Folks assume that such information is all it takes to build up a survival pantry. However, this is a wrong approach, and one will run out of food faster than expected if using this strategy.

If you want to do things properly, you should estimate the caloric intake needed for each of your family members rather than counting on the serving sizes.

Each person has a different caloric need based on their gender, age, and general activity. It is also worth mentioning

that the weather is an important factor when you calculate the calorie intake of a human. If you live in a region that is prone to harsh winters and you are not a couch potato, you should probably double the calories you consume.

For hard manual labor such as digging, chopping wood, carrying heavy objects, or even walking for miles, some people will require 3,000 -4,000 calories easily.

Here are the general, recommended caloric needs:

Children between age 2 and 3

If the child is sedentary, the caloric intake should be between 1,000 and 1,200 calories. For moderately active and active children, the caloric intake should be between 1,000 and 1,400 calories.

Female

Age

4-8

Sedentary type: 1,200-1,400 Moderately
active type: 1,400-1,600 Active type: 1,400-1,800

Age 9-13

Sedentary type: 1,400-1,600 Moderately
active type: 1,600-2,000 Active type: 1,800-2,000

Age

14-18

Sedentary type: 1,800 Moderately active type:

2,000 Active type: 2,400

Age

19-30

Sedentary type: 1,800-2,000 Moderately
active type: 2,000-2,200 Active type: 2,400

Age

31-50

Sedentary type: 1,800 Moderately active
type: 2,000 Active type: 2,200

Age

51+

Sedentary type: 1,600 Moderately active
type: 1,800 Active type: 2,000-2,200

Male

Age

4-8

Sedentary type: 1,200-1,400 Moderately
active type: 1,400-1,600 Active type: 1,600-2,000

Age

9-13

Sedentary type: 1,600-2,000 Moderately
active type: 1,800-2,000 Active type: 2,000-2,600

Age

14-18

Sedentary type: 2,000-2,400 Moderately
active type: 2,400-2,800 Active type: 3,000

Age

19-30

Sedentary type: 2,400-2,600 Moderately
active type: 2,600-2,800 Active type: 3,000

Age

31-50

Sedentary type: 2,200-2,400 Moderately
active type: 2,400-2,600 Active type: 2,800-3,000

Age

51+

Sedentary type: 2,000-2,200 Moderately
active type: 2,200-2,400 Active type: 2,400-2,800

Once you figured out how many calories you should consume per day based on your activity level, you have to prepare meals so that every member of your family gets his or her proper nutrition. To provide a balanced diet, you should make sure that all major nutrients are provided with each meal.

This may sound complicated, but you should start by keeping in mind that a human body needs five categories of ingredients: fat, protein, carbohydrates, fiber, and water.

Fiber and water are important for your health and well-being, and some may consider this as an independent addition. The human body cannot function properly without an adequate intake of protein, fat, and carbohydrates.

The recommended intake of protein, fat, and carbs:

Young children (of age between 1 – 3 years):

- **Protein:** 5 -20%, **Fat:** 30 – 40%, **Carbs:** 45-65%

Older children (of age between 4 – 18 years):

- **Protein:** 10 -30%, **Fat:** 25 – 35%, **Carbs:** 45-65%

Adults (19 years and older):

- **Protein:** 10 -35%, **Fat:** 20 – 35%, **Carbs:** 45-65%

These numbers are important to be remembered because an imbalanced diet will cause health problems and will trigger appetite fatigue faster.

A general rule of food storage states that one should only store foods his family eats, and common sense goes a long way here. Buy only the food your loved ones are accustomed to eating, the type of food you used daily. Never go for foods that you think and hope they will eat.

An emergency situation is not a suitable experience to taste the culinary taste of your family.

Rather than picking everything you see on the grocery shelves, look at your favorite recipes and figure out a way to adapt or reinvent them with the items you store in your survival pantry.

If you want to settle on the ratios to provide a balanced diet, these figures should help:

Protein: 15% of your pantry supplies. Here you can have items such as meat, peanut butter, and assorted nuts.

Grains: 35% of your pantry supplies. Here you can have items such as cereals, pasta, rice, and even bread.

Vegetables: 20% of your pantry supplies. Here you can have items such as corn, carrots, peas, and other vegetables.

Dairy: 15% of your pantry supplies. Here you can have items such as powdered milk and hard cheese.

Fruits: 15% of your pantry supplies. Here you can have all sorts of canned and dehydrated fruits.

Requirements for a one-year survival pantry

When starting with long-term food storage, many will get confused and get lost in the numbers. It is one of the most difficult things for new preppers to deal with.

Although most of them understand that their pantry needs to include basics such as beans, grains, fats, dairy items, baking ingredients, and various spices, figuring out the

actual numbers is the real challenge. One important thing you need to remember is that a human adult needs a pound of dry food per day in order to survive.

Dry foods such as legumes, sugar, pasta, rice, and dehydrated vegetables or fruits are constantly on the grocery shopping lists of preppers. Here is what a one-year emergency pantry contained, which should be more than enough to feed a family of two:

- 25 pounds of flour
- 50 pounds of rice
- 25 pounds of pasta
- 120 pounds of whole-grain wheat
- 25 pounds of oats
- 15 pounds of millet
- 30 pounds of dried beans
- 5 pounds of lentils
- 5 pounds of split peas
- 25 pounds of cornmeal
- 10 pounds of soybeans
- 5 pounds of peanut butter
- $\frac{1}{2}$ gallon of dehydrated eggs
- 10 pounds of textured vegetable protein (TVP)
- 4 pounds baking powder
- 4 pounds baking soda
- 40 pound of sugar
- 10 pounds of honey (I store a lot of honey as I use it for other purposes as well)
- 4 pounds molasses
- 4 pounds jam
- 40 quarts of vegetable oil
- 50 pounds dry milk
- 10 pounds salt
- 2 pounds yeast

- 3 gallons of vinegar
- 10 pounds dry soup mix
- A large variety of spices and seasonings

Storing water

When it comes to storing water, this is a much easier task compared to storing food. However, there are some things you have to remember when calculating how much water should be enough for your family's needs.

To have proper hydration, you should drink half of your body weight in water ounces, in normal conditions. For example, if you weigh 160 pounds, half of that is 80, so that means you should drink at least 80 ounces of water each day. Most survival experts recommend keeping at least one gallon of water for each person per day. Said water should be used for both drinking and sanitation purposes.

I recommend going with one gallon and a half of water for each family member. This is how I'm doing it, and I've adjusted my water needs because heat waves may hit our area during the year.

One thing I have to stress when it comes to water storage is that every serious prepper should not concentrate their efforts on just storing water. You should learn how to find additional sources of water, both inside and outside your home, and also have the means to make

that water drinkable.

Also, learning how to build a water generator is the best backup plan you can have for your water needs. I guarantee you will be way ahead of your neighbors during a water shortage.

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Concluding:

The information provided in this article should help both new and experienced preppers figuring out how much food and water needs to be stored. I remember, I had a hard time when

starting with all of this, and I hope you will figure out the right numbers for you much easier after reading this article.