Cleaning Water Storage Containers
Using food containers for water hauling such as plastic milk jugs or other food containers may be used. Scrub, rinse, clean, rinse, disinfect, and rinse the containers if it was used for food.
1. Scrub and rinse with warm water, use bottle brush as needed.
2. Clean with dish soap and hot water.
3. Rinse completely with warm water.
4. Disinfect by filling the container with a mixture of 3 teaspoon of bleach and 5 gallons of water. Let stand until ready to haul water. Empty the water and bleach mixture.
5. Rinse the container with clean water.
You are ready to use the container for hauling water.

Clean Water Barrels once a Month
1. Scrub– Mix 3 teaspoon of chlorine bleach with every 5 gallons of water. Scrub barrel with mixture. Clean all hoses and any other water hauling equipment with the water/bleach mixture.
2. Rinse– Rinse the container and all other equipment with clean water.
3. Disinfect– Mix 3 teaspoon of bleach with every 5 gallons of water to disinfect the tank. Let bleach and water stand in the tank until ready to use or at least 30 minutes.
4. Rinse– Rinse the container again. You are ready to haul water now.
Background
Some Navajos living in rural areas across the Navajo Nation do not have access to safe drinking water. Many families haul their drinking water from unregulated water sources; windmills, hand pump wells, or natural springs. Windmills were developed by the Navajo Department of Water Resources for livestock use only. Hand pump wells were installed by the Public Health Service (PHS) in the 1950’s and 1960’s to help Navajos address the need for water. Most hand pump wells were placed in washes. Natural springs flow naturally from the ground and do not have infrastructure (pipe or other fixtures).

Project Objective
To promote safe hauling practices in transporting regulated water for human consumption.

Two types of water haulers:
- **Bulk Water Hauler**– Bulk water haulers use commercial vehicles to haul water to homes or communities using a 1,000-gallon tank or more to community members. Bulk water haulers have water containers mounted on their vehicles.
- **Light Water Hauler**– Light Water Haulers using less than 1,000-gallon drums or less, to haul potable water for human consumption.

Regulated Water Source
Regulated water sources are tested regularly for heavy metals, bacteria, and other contaminants.

Unregulated Water Source
Unregulated water sources includes windmills, artesian wells, hand dug wells, and springs. These unregulated water sources are not tested and do not meet the Navajo Nation Safe Drinking Water Act requirements. *Unregulated water sources are intended for livestock use only.*

Recommended Containers
The type of containers that is recommended for bulk water hauling includes:
- The US Food and Drug Administration (FDA) approved bulk water hauling unit that is only used for human consumption and should not be used for hauling livestock water.
- An inspected and approved bulk water hauling unit that is mounted on a truck.
- Mounted water haulers and trailers should be certified by National Sanitation Foundation (NSF) or American Water Works Association (AWWA).

Individuals who haul water for personal use and who do not intend to redistribute the water may follow these guidelines.
- The water drums that are being utilized for storage should comply with the FDA for storing water.
- The hose should be approved for drinking water, such as hoses for RVs and boat.
- The hose should be properly stored when not in use. The hose should not be left lying around so as to be contaminated. Hang the hose off the ground.
- The water drums that are being used for human use should not be used for hauling livestock water.

WHAT NOT TO USE