

# 10. GO WITH THE FLOW

## Being able to flush toilets during emergencies

### WHY ACT?

Much of New York City will have water even if the electricity is out. However, if you live in a high-rise building above the 5th floor, you may experience an interrupted water supply. If your building has a generator, (ask your building management) water will be pumped to your floor, but if your building doesn't have a generator this action will help you maintain basic sanitary functioning. Additionally, an entire building could lose its water supply if there is a water main break.

### PREPAREDNESS ACTION

Step 1: Introduce your companions to this water-conservation motto:

“If it's yellow, let it mellow. If it's brown, flush it down.”

Step 2: Let urine accumulate in the toilet bowl.

Step 3: Set aside buckets for saving all gray water (from bathing, laundry and washing dishes.)

Step 4: Use gray water for toilet flushing. Two gallons or so of liquid will flush your toilet.

Step 5: Periodically let gray water set in the bowl with a few drops of bleach to disinfect it and control odors – but don't waste it, wait until there's a reason to flush.

### MATERIALS

A five-gallon bucket or two to store water for flushing.

### TIME

30 minutes or so to scrounge up the buckets. They're everywhere: restaurants get food in them, drywall compound comes in them, etc. You can also purchase them at the hardware store if need be for \$2.50 or so.

### RESILIENCY GAIN

The relief of being able to flush.