How to Make Sterile Water and Sterile Saline

How to Make Sterile Water

1. Put water that is filtered in a clean pan.
   Filtered water has run through a carbon filter or a reverse osmosis machine with a 0.2 micron filter.
   Some bottled water is filtered. Read the label.
2. Bring the water to a gentle boil. Put a lid on the pan.
3. Boil the water for 5 minutes.
4. Use the water right away after it has cooled down, or put it in sterilized containers.
   Do not use ice to cool down the water.

How to Sterilize a Container

1. Choose a container that can be sterilized.
   (You cannot use aluminum cans or paper cartons. They fall apart or melt.)
2. Put the container in a pan of boiling water for 10 minutes.
   or
   Clean the container in a dishwasher on the full cycle (not a short wash).
How to Make Sterile Saline

To make 8 ounces of sterile saline
Mix 8 ounces of sterile water and
1/2 level teaspoon of non iodized salt

To make 16 ounces of sterile saline
Mix 16 ounces of sterile water and
1 level teaspoon of non iodized salt

Put the mixture in a sterile container, write the date on a label, and put the sterile saline in the refrigerator.

After 3 days throw out the sterile saline, sterilize the container again, and make more sterile saline.

Keep germs out of the sterile water and sterile saline.
Do not dip anything (even a syringe) into the container.
Instead, pour some into a clean paper cup and put the syringe into the saline in the cup.

Now that you’ve read this:

☐ Tell your nurse or doctor how you would make sterile water.

☐ Tell your nurse or doctor how you would sterilize a container.

☐ Tell your nurse or doctor how you would make sterile saline.

☐ Tell your nurse or doctor how you would store sterile saline.

☐ Tell your nurse or doctor how you would keep germs out of the sterile water or saline.
If you have any questions or concerns,
☐ call your child's doctor or ☐ call ______________________

If you want to know more about child health and illness, visit our library at The Emily Center at Phoenix Children's Hospital
1919 East Thomas Road
Phoenix, AZ 85016
602-933-1400
866-933-6459
www.phoenixchildrens.org
www.theemilycenter.org
Facebook: facebook.com/theemilycenter
Twitter: @emilycenter
Pinterest: pinterest.com/emilycenter

Disclaimer
The information provided at this site is intended to be general information, and is provided for educational purposes only. It is not intended to take the place of examination, treatment, or consultation with a physician. Phoenix Children’s Hospital urges you to contact your physician with any questions you may have about a medical condition.
How to Make Sterile Water and Saline

Family Review of Handout

Health care providers: Please teach families with this handout.
Families: Please let us know what you think of this handout.

Would you say this handout is hard to read?  □ Yes  □ No

Would you say this handout is easy to read?  □ Yes  □ No

Please circle the parts of the handout that were hard to understand.

Would you say this handout is interesting to read?  □ Yes  □ No

Why or why not?

Would you do anything differently after reading this handout?  □ Yes  □ No

If yes, what?

After reading this handout, do you have any questions about the subject?  □ Yes  □ No

If yes, what?
Is there anything you don’t like about the drawings?  □ Yes  □ No

If yes, what?

What changes would you make in this handout to make it better or easier to understand?

Please return your review of this handout to your nurse or doctor or send it to the address below.

The Emily Center
Health Education Specialist
Phoenix Children’s Hospital
1919 East Thomas Road
Phoenix, AZ 85016-7710

Thank you for helping us!