



# TOOLBOX TALK



## DRINKING WATER A BASIC UNDERSTANDING OF THE OSHA SANITATION STANDARD

All employee drinking water facilities and operations must be carried out according to sound hygienic principals.



### PROVISIONS FOR DRINKING WATER

- An employer is required to provide an adequate supply of potable 'cool' water in all places of employment - offices, field, etc. "Cool" means water that is less than ambient condition on warm days at a minimum, but typically between 50 – 60 degrees. The water must be available, and the employees must have permissive access for consumption.
- "Potable water" is defined in Section 1926.51: water which meets the quality standards prescribed in the U.S. Public Health Services Drinking Water Standards, published in 42 CFR Part 721, or water which is approved for drinking purposes by the State or local authority having jurisdiction.
- Portable containers used to dispense drinking water shall be capable of being tightly closed and equipped with a tap. Water shall not be dipped from an open container. No water that has left the container can re-enter the container.

### DO

- Have an adequate supply of potable water in all places of employment: offices, field offices, job sites.
- Provide single service (one time use) drinking cups. Common drinking cups are prohibited.
- Provide a sanitary container for unused cups and a receptacle for used cups.
- Clearly mark the container used to distribute drinking water as to the nature of its contents and that it is not to be used for any other purpose.

### DON'T

- Do not use outlets for non-potable water such as water for industrial or firefighting purposes for drinking water.
- Do not allow potential for cross contamination between potable and not potable sources or potential for potable water that has left the source to re-enter that same source.



### REVIEW QUESTIONS

1. Water only needs to be made available on hot days?
  - a) True
  - b) False:** All employees should have adequate drinking water everyday regardless of temperature.
2. Dipping cups or sharing cups is a proper way to share common water?
  - a) True
  - b) False:** Single use cups should be used when sharing water with other workers..

Talk Given By:	Date:
Company Name:	Location:
Printed Name	Signature

Under the Occupational Safety and Health Act, employers are responsible for providing a safe and healthy workplace and workers have rights. OSHA can help answer questions or concerns from employers and workers. OSHA's On-site Consultation Program offers free and confidential advice to small and medium-sized businesses, with priority given to high-hazard worksites. For more information, contact your regional or area OSHA office, call 1-800-321-OSHA (6742), or visit [www.osha.gov](http://www.osha.gov).

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