

Canteens from Water Bottles!



A 20-ounce plastic water bottle makes a better canteen than you'd think. Despite their flimsy appearance, plastic water bottles are very strong. They're strong enough that you can tie a shoestring or piece of rope around them for a lanyard and carry them as a canteen. If you want very cold water, freeze the bottles. They'll be wet on the outside from condensation but very cold. (Not good to carry inside your pack unless you want a wet pack!)

If you're concerned about carrying a full water bottle in your pack, make a metal shield. The one shown below was made of two tin cans green beans had come in. The tops were removed, and some sandpaper got rid of the rough edges. The plastic bottle fits into two cans, which can be taped together with duct tape.



To carry a full, unopened water bottle in your pack, you could also wrap it in clothing and put it at the bottom of your pack.

One full day's worth of water is one gallon per person, or 128 ounces. That's about 6-1/2 20-ounce bottles.