

Water for Pet Pigs- How Often to Change It and Is: “Stale” Water Safe?

Why freshwater matters

Clean, fresh water is important for your pet pig’s health. Water that sits out can become contaminated with dirt, feed, bedding, insects or airborne particles, and in warm conditions it can support bacterial or algae growth. Keeping water fresh reduces the risk of digestive upset, dehydration, and exposure to pathogens.

How long can water sit out?

- Short periods (a few hours): Generally safe if the water looks clear and smells normal. In cool, shaded conditions water can remain acceptable for several hours
- Up to 24 hours: Still usually okay in many situations, but quality declines over time.
- More than 24 hours: Not recommended. The longer water sits, the higher the chance of contamination and microbial growth

Is “stale” water safe for pet pigs?

Pigs are hardy and will often drink standing water, but repeated consumption of contaminated water increases the risk of stomach upsets and infections. Occasional drinking of water left out a few hours is unlikely to cause problems if the water appears clean. However, any water that is cloudy, has surface film or algae, contains debris, has visible insects, or smells off should be discarded and replaced immediately.

When to call a veterinarian

If your pig shows signs of diarrhea, decreased appetite, lethargy, vomiting, or other illnesses after drinking water that might be contaminated, contact your veterinarian.

Bottom line

Fresh water is best. Replace water daily, check it often, and don’t offer water that looks or smells spoiled. These simple steps will help keep your pet pig healthy and hydrated.