

The Knowledge House Guide to:

Stocking a Home Survival Kit

A home survival kit is a collection of basic items your household may need for in-place sheltering during a natural disaster or other emergency. A well-supplied home survival kit will allow you to eat, administer simple first aid, and more in the safety of your home. The survival kit can be stored in your basement, garage, storage shed, or spare room. 33-gallon plastic trash barrels make excellent storage bins for your home survival kit. These are available with wheels, and can be purchased at your local hardware store. The barrel should have a tight fitting or latching lid to keep out insects and other pests. Store your emergency supplies inside the barrel in quantities sufficient to meet the needs of your household for at least 3 days or preferably one week. Check expiration dates and rotate items on a regular basis.

Recommended contents for a home survival kit:

GENERAL SUPPLIES

- Water (1 gallon per person per day)
- Water purifier (Katadyn pocket water filter available at camping stores)
- First aid kit
- First aid manual
- Food (non-perishable canned, packaged, freeze-dried)
- Critical medication and eyeglasses
- Medicine dropper
- Kleenex
- Flashlight with spare batteries and bulbs
- Candles and waterproof matches
- Watch or clock (battery or spring-wound)
- Battery-powered radio with spare batteries
- Spare cash
- Duct tape
- Basic tool kit
- Work gloves
- Dust masks
- Fire extinguisher (dry chemical, type ABC)
- Copies of important documents (identification, insurance policies, bank account records, etc.)
- Baby food, wipes and diapers (if needed)

CLOTHING & BEDDING

- Blanket or sleeping bag for each family member
- Bandana or handkerchief for each family member
- Change of clothes for each family member
- Extra shoes for each family member

COOKING SUPPLIES

- Grill, camp stove, or Sterno can
- Small pots and pans w/utensils
- Plastic bags (various sizes)
- Paper plates, plastic cups, plastic utensils
- Manual can opener

SANITATION SUPPLIES

- Large plastic trash bags and ties (for trash, waste, rain protection)
- Newspapers (wrap waste and garbage)
- Toiletries (personal hygiene supplies, toilet paper, soap, moist towlettes, toothpaste, etc.)
- Liquid chlorine bleach (You can use bleach as a disinfectant - diluted nine parts water to one part bleach - or in an emergency you can also use it to treat water. Use 4 drops of bleach per gallon of water and let stand one hour. Do not use scented, color safe, or bleach with added cleaners.)