

The Knowledge House Guide to:

Stocking a Home Survival Kit

A home survival kit is simply a collection of basic items your household may need in the event of an emergency or natural disaster. A well-supplied home survival kit will allow you to eat, administer simple first aid, and more. The survival kit can be stored in your basement, garage, backyard storage shed, or a spare room. Just make sure that the kit will be readily accessible. 33-gallon plastic trash barrels make excellent storage bins for your home survival kit. These are even 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 in the barrel, in quantities sufficient to meet the needs of your household for at least 7 days. Be sure to rotate out any perishables on a regular basis.

Recommended contents for a home survival kit:

GENERAL SUPPLIES

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

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.)
- Infant supplies
- 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.)

The Knowledge House Guide to:

Stocking a Portable Emergency Kit

In addition to the home survival kit, you should have a portable emergency kit. This is a smaller kit of essentials that can be stored in the trunk of your car. If you can't keep it in your car, put it in a designated place where it is ready to "grab and go." A portable emergency kit will come in handy if you ever get stranded in your vehicle, if you're forced to evacuate at a moment's notice, or if you need to administer simple first aid on the road. Your portable emergency kit can be stored in a backpack, duffel bag, suitcase, or plastic storage bin. Be sure to rotate out any perishable items on a regular basis.

Recommended contents for a portable emergency kit:

- Portable radio with extra batteries
- Flashlight with extra batteries and bulbs
- Emergency phone numbers
- First aid kit
- Fire extinguisher (ABC type)
- Leatherman multi-tool or basic tool kit
- Folding camp shovel
- Roll of toilet tissue
- Package of wet wipes
- Hand sanitizer
- Several days supply of any prescribed medicine
- Spare glasses (old pair in a hard case)
- \$20.00 in small bills and change
- Ground cloth or tarp
- Blanket or sleeping bag
- Bandana or handkerchief
- Extra change of clothes
- Personal hygiene items (toothbrush, toothpaste, comb)
- Duct tape
- Canned food (no cooking required)
- Manual can opener
- Paper plates
- Plastic utensils
- Granola or energy bars
- Bottled water
- Extra hat, socks, shirt and pants
- Rain poncho or large plastic garbage bag
- Walking shoes/boots
- Gloves
- Whistle
- Compass
- Signal mirror
- Emergency strobe light
- Reflective hazard triangles
- Matches in a waterproof container
- Pencil and pad of paper
- Plastic bags
- Road map
- Small Bible
- Deck of cards
- Baby supplies (if needed)
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