

2012 Bug-Out-Bag



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Why Use A Bug Out Bag?

Imagine you're at work. Your kids are at school, and wife is out shopping. Suddenly the solar flares go nuts. It's just a warning of what's coming next, but it plunges your city into darkness, and tells you that you've got to get out of there.

How are you going to make it all the way to your permanent shelter? What will happen if you have to hike there or you get sidetracked in your vehicle? You've got to have the essentials along the way if you want to survive.

Enter the Bug Out Bag. This puppy has everything you need to **save your life** in a backpack. Compact, and relatively lightweight you should put it in your car so you're ready to go at a moment's notice.

What Type of Bag

The United States Army uses a 3 Day assault pack that is perfect for the job of a BOB. It's much more durable than a standard back-pack, and most importantly, easy to run with.



Here is a reseller for this pack:

[Brigade QM 3 Day Assault Pack](#)

Color and style are not a big deal. I prefer the ACU (Army Combat Uniform) digital camouflage, because it can always be darkened, but remember, you're probably going to be in an urban area so camouflage is pretty irrelevant.

The Packing List

Here's a no-holds-barred, barebones serious survival list:

1. **20 Day Food Supply.** The only way to do this realistically is to buy high calorie bars. They are moderately expensive, but there's no other effective way to fit 20 days of food into a backpack.



You can buy these on Amazon: [3600 Calorie Food Bar](#)

2. **Tactical Flashlight.** Having a solid flashlight isn't an option, it's a must. But more than that, you need a tactical flashlight that can be used as a weapon if need be, and will take a lickin' and keep on tickin'.



The [Surefire E2D2](#) is one of the best flashlights for the money. While it's more pricey, it'll be completely worth it if you ever find yourself in a tight spot.

3. **Batteries.** Seems like an obvious one, but far too easy to forget. You can purchase these at any local store.
4. **Glowsticks.** Even the best batteries will fail in time. Keep a few glowsticks handy in the bag for that eventuality.



They are also great for ambient light, and markers. Not so perfect if you need a high concentration of direct light, but for everything else they'll work fine.

The [ER Lightstick](#) is the best buy I've found so far.

5. **Hand Cranked Emergency Radio.** If there are other survivors, or government messages being put out, you want to know about them. Enter the radio.

[American Red Cross FR150](#)



6. **Multi-tool.** Gerber or Leatherman (slightly more expensive) are the brands I choose. Has enough basic tools to handle pretty much any task you might encounter on the way to your long term shelter.

[Leatherman 830040](#)

7. **Saw.** Gerber makes a terrific, and durable saw. Perfect for cutting wood for a fire. Normally comes with extra blades, but if not, be sure to grab some.



[Gerber 46036 Saw](#)

8. **Knife.** Perfect for self defense (if you're properly trained), or practical everyday evasion and survival tasks.

[Gerber 22-41121](#)

9. **Lensatic Compass.** Lensatic compasses are another military favorite. Extremely durable and intuitive, much better for shooting an accurate azimuth than the cheap orienteering compasses, and still not expensive.

[Brunton Lensatic Compass](#)

10. **Parachute Chord.** Classic 550 cord is about as durable and cheap as you can get. Perfect for rigging a poncho into an improvised shelter.

[550 Chord](#)



11. **Fire-starters.** Waterproof matches have never worked well for me, and I don't recommend them. Put magnesium fire-starters along with pre-manufactured kindling.

[Magnesium Fire-starter](#)

[Pre-Manufactured Kindling](#)

12. **Water Purification Tablets.** Without a consistent way to purify water, your survival will be limited. They don't make the water taste perfect, but they are extremely portable and easy to use.

[Polar Pure Water Disinfectant](#)

13. **Fishing Lures, and Line.** If you're in North America, especially one of the suggested areas, you'll be close enough to a body of water to feed yourself without having to rely on nutritious but somewhat tiresome meal replacement bars.

Purchase these from any local sporting goods store.

14. **Entrenching Tool.** A shovel is vital for any campsite. A fire pit, refuse pit or any other kind of hole you might possibly need to dig will be tough without a shovel.

[Folding Survival Shovel](#)



15.1 Roll of Duct Tape.

16. **Poncho.** Essential for wet weather gear, and the ability to setup a shelter.

[Coleman Emergency Poncho](#)

17. **First Aid Kit.** There are pre-made first aid kits that aren't too bad, but you need to be sure to include:

- a. Needle
- b. Thread
- c. Pain Killers
- d. Gauze
- e. Tourniquet



[Coleman Base Camp First Aid Kit](#)

18. **Canteen.** I use a CamelBak. It's easy to put underneath or overtop of your BOB, and carry plenty of water naturally. Grab a canteen cup so you've got something to heat water, shave, brush your teeth or anything similar.

[CamelBak Rogue](#)

[Canteen Cup](#)

19. **Emergency Blankets.** Wool blankets are the best for repeated long time use. You can't reuse the space blankets with the reflective Mylar coating. Not bad for a onetime use though.



[Camping Wool Blanket](#)

20. **Knit cap.** Basic wool knit cap that you can pick-up from Wal-Mart for the winter months.

21. Change of Clothes. Pack a durable change. You don't need special "survival" clothes to be in good shape. A solid pair of jeans, gloves, and work clothes will be great.

22. Altoids Survival Tin. This is a back-up for the back-up. Make a few Altoids Survival Tins for the ultra-quick grab-n-go.

- a. Steel Striker
- b. Quick Starter Fire Tabs
- c. Mini LED Light
- d. Reynolds Oven Bag (for water)
- e. Small Water Purification Tablet bottle
- f. 50' of 20lb fishing lure
- g. Mini fishing tackle kit
- h. Small hooks
- i. Signal mirror
- j. Mini compass
- k. Wire saw
- l. Band-aid
- m. Xacto Knife Head
- n. Packet of antibiotic ointment
- o. 2 Butterfly Bandages
- p. 2 Feet of Aluminum Foil
- q. 10' of thin nylon chord



This bad boy packed up can be the difference between life and death. If you can't grab anything else, grab this.

Where to Keep Your Bug Out Bag

This question is a little dependent on your personal situation. My best advice? Use common sense. You want to be able to get to this bag at literally a moment's notice. Mine would go straight into the trunk of my car.

If you spend 90% of your time at the office it might not be a bad idea to have it at the office and bring it home with you on the weekends. If you spend all your time

at home, keep it in your garage. Just realize, that wherever you keep it, you may not have time to backtrack all the way home to get it.

For Your Kids

Even trickier. Here, I definitely say, in the car. Wherever you have to go to get them (school, day care, or even home) you'll be in the car. Their bags will be slightly smaller anyways, so they'll be easier to store.

Bottom line, you may need this thing to save your life one day. Keep it complete, compact (everything tightened down) and close.

The 3 C's of a Bug Out Bag

- Complete
- Compact
- Close