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PREPPING FOR HARD TIMES

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PART ONE Long-term survival guide



1-1 Many tasks must be accomplished, as well as numerous activities that must be planned. What's the first step?

It's obvious, but it bears repeating: being somewhat ready for crises helps everyone, no matter their politics, age, wealth, or geography.

Get ready for anything that may come your way. Those closest to you, including your spouse, children, parents, neighbors, and friends, must also be ready. Everyone, from staunch liberals to staunch conservatives, gun enthusiasts to vegetarians, first-year college students to parents of small children to retirees living in the country, should be ready for an emergency.

The term "prepping" should not be considered offensive. Reality TV loves to portray preppers as paranoid conspiracy theorists, but that's not the only kind of prepper out there. Preppers often come from various backgrounds and are all reasonable people.

Having a front-row seat to the forces in our society that are making things worse has motivated many preppers, many of whom are well educated and accomplished.

Many individuals in the developed world may say that right now is one of the most delicate times to be alive. But in the larger scheme of things, the conveniences of contemporary living are a fluke, and many experts believe that we have reached our zenith.

We've taken it all for granted, with the expectation that it will continue, and this has left billions of people vulnerable to the instability of our institutions. Numerous individuals throughout the world, in the billions, lack the skills necessary to do even the most fundamental of tasks, such as making a fire or treating an injury.

The world in which we now exist is volatile, and things only seem to worsen. Or, to put it another way, it looks like the "honeymoon period" of the last several decades is coming to an end. Natural catastrophes are becoming more common and devastating due to our planet's changing climate. Everything we know about how economies operate and what it means to work and live. Natural catastrophes are becoming more common and devastating due to our planet's changing climate.

In both cases, our institutions and governments are dysfunctional and failing to address the underlying issues; although we may emerge unscathed in the end, getting there will be excruciatingly unpleasant.

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CHAPTER 1 REASONS TO PREP

T t's impossible to list why people get active in disaster preparedness. There are many advantages to becoming a Prepper regardless of political views, age; money; geography; or any other factor. When calamity strikes, most individuals in developed countries will find their ease and convenience are of little service.

How long do you expect the internet to function in the event of an EMP or nuclear attack? What percentage of today's youth know how to start a fire or get food without traveling to the local supermarket?

From a development standpoint, someone could claim that our modern conveniences have made the human species more susceptible to economic or sociological collapse. Although our technological advancements are unique, our laziness in acquiring basic survival skills has grown. To sum up, we must be all prepared for anything that may happen.

Contrarily, some might be interested in preparation but are reluctant to give it a try for fear of failing. In popular media, preppers are often portrayed negatively. Preppers are not necessarily loner types who live in bunkers and carry about tin foil hats. Intelligent and wealthy people from various areas of life make up a large portion of the prepping community.

Here, we'll examine the spiritual and practical causes for which we must immediately begin storing food and water.

Mindfulness



There is no such thing as being overly prepared, even if you never end up using your Prepper pantry. Thankfully, nothing happens that seriously disrupts your routine. We shouldn't hope for catastrophes, but being ready to protect yourself and your loved ones in the face of any emergency is a great comfort.

Worries and stress are an inevitable part of life. To that end, it's wise to seek out any resource that can make one's existence less taxing. Preparation for future occurrences has been shown to have a calming effect on those who engage in the practice. A backup supply of everything, from toilet paper to food to a chocolate bar, might help alleviate stress. Future-related anxiety, which may be pretty debilitating, is also relieved.

Our past

Prepping was a regular aspect of life for people of earlier generations, including those who survived the World Wars and the generations before them. Your forefathers were able to provide for their families by collecting crops, storing food, and guarding their possessions. It's the cornerstone of any effective preparation strategy.

Growing enough food for one's family from a backyard garden became so familiar during World War II that some municipalities actively promoted it to reduce the strain on national supplies. These flower beds were proudly dubbed "Victory Gardens."

Prepping is a bit of a throwback to the more traditional practices our predecessors practiced and treasured when instant gratification was the norm. Why not use prepping to get in touch with your heritage and support the preservation of your culture's customs?

Not Just for "End-of-World"

Some survivalists are getting ready for the big stuff, like nuclear war, the end of the world, or even zombies. However, there are numerous occurrences for which you must prepare; some of these may be located much closer to home than you currently understand.

In areas known for their "unpredictable weather," it's more prudent to stock up on supplies in case of severe storms. Picture this: you get in your car one morning and discover that the roads around your house are covered in ice. If that happens, not only will you be unable to get to the grocery store, but there's also a chance the power will go out. Prepare for this possibility by stocking up on food, heat, and water.

A slightly direr circumstance in which a preparation pantry would be helpful is in the event of personal financial difficulty. Let's say the primary breadwinner in your family suddenly loses their job and has trouble finding another one. If that's the case, you and your family will benefit greatly from being able to live off of your stockpile instead of spending the remaining money. Having supplies on hand for prepping can be helpful in times of crisis and as a backup plan.

Can Play a Role in Strengthening Connections and Groups



It's hardly surprising that preparation has become more of a norm in modern society due to catastrophic catastrophes like the Covid-19 outbreak. There are several online communities where survivalists exchange ideas and information, and they are expanding all the time.

Preparing is a lifestyle that can unite people of all ages, races, cultures, and socioeconomic backgrounds. Our shared struggle for survival binds us closer together. Meeting preppers in person might be challenging since most do not publicize that they are preppers. However, connecting with individuals online is simple because of resources like message boards, podcasts, and social media sites like Facebook. Check online to see if you can locate any in your area. And while you're at it, pick up some pointers.

Teaches you how to maximize efficiency

It's essential to cover much ground to be an effective Prepper. The capacity to make do with less is among the vital talents and attitudes you'll pick up as a Prepper, but there are many more. Preparedness requires a certain level of resourcefulness, a quality that is useful in every situation.

People who practice prepping tend to be more frugal and mindful of their consumption habits. An incredibly wasteful lifestyle has no place in comparison to one like this. As a result, many survivalist communities boast excellent problem-solvers and self-sufficient citizens. The ability to rely on oneself is a crucial skill learned via prepping.

You'll find these preparing abilities helpful in many contexts, even if you do it as a hobby and have regular 9–5 office work during the day.

Confidence-booster

Opportunities for personal growth abound in the world of prepping. Seeing our efforts pay off and our abilities grow, we and others can get a more positive, productive, and dependable perspective of ourselves, which naturally boosts our confidence. Gaining the knowledge and practice, we need to survive and flourish as a good Prepper is a specific route to a boost in self-assurance. Because of this, it may be helpful to include your kids (if you have any) in your preparations and training. As kids acquire these life-saving abilities, they'll be exposed to novel perspectives and grow self-assurance as they take on challenges more easily. Moreover, they will develop less anxiety in the face of adversity, which will help them deal with future problems more calmly and logically.

You're not dependent on "Higher Powers."

Self-sufficiency, in which one does not need to depend on outside sources like governments or other "bodies," is a significant draw for many newly-minted preppers. Of course, this usually means slamming the government, but it may also imply you shouldn't put your faith in anybody. The government may be able to give some assistance in the event of a crisis, but it probably won't be enough to keep everyone alive. While it is reasonable to expect the government to provide for its citizens, it is comforting to know that you can do it on your own if necessary.

Also, it's comforting to know that you can safeguard yourself rather than relying on others to come to your rescue.

Reduces issues



Having everything you need on hand is crucial to the Prepper lifestyle. Prepared individuals always have backups of their backups. Preppers are ingenious people who never go hungry or thirsty. Preppers won't be among the crowds of people rushing to the store to buy rolls of toilet paper when a crisis hits and supplies are low. A reduction in demand for these items may be expected if more individuals engage in preparation.

Most preppers aim to help others around them, whether lending a hand with installing a water tank for the community or giving away the cookies baked with the flour and chocolate chips stashed in their pantry. While not all preppers will have a heartfelt desire to do good in their communities, those who are well-prepared for disasters are far less likely to be in need and, therefore, more willing to assist others. What better thing to do as a Prepper than to assist your neighbors when they find themselves in need of some emergency food or shelter? Learning these things may help you provide for your loved ones, but you'll reap even more significant benefits if you use them to assist others.

In conclusion, you may become a Prepper for many different reasons. We don't care whether it's for one of the

reasons we gave above or something else entirely. Preparation is essential, but the excitement you approach it counts. If you do things well, it will turn out well.

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CHAPTER 2 THE RISING TREND OF PREPPING AND ITS IMPORTANCE

In the introduction of this manual, we'd also want to mention that preparation has evolved from a somewhat obscure interest to a widespread way of life.

You probably don't realize it, but many of the folks you contact daily are also survivalist nuts. Generally, prepper communities know better than broadcasting their plans to the public.

According to a 2017 poll by a financial technology firm, twenty percent of Americans spent money on a bug-out bag or survival pack. The number of individuals who actively prepare for emergencies has grown, with 45% of Americans doing so in 2021.

Because many preppers maintain a high level of secrecy, estimating the size of the prepping community is challenging. Recent studies suggest that 72 percent of American citizens have taken some preparation action in the last year. Several things might be at play here, but I'd put my money on Covid being the main reason for the uptick of new preppers. Due to the Covid pandemic, many individuals were exposed to the preparing lifestyle for the first time and learned the ins and outs of it. Being in a dire situation may be a powerful inspiration.

Due to the negative connotations associated with prepper culture, few individuals gave it serious thought in the past. Some people have a negative impression of preppers because of the stereotype that they are a group of obsessives, paranoid conspiracy theorists who spend their time creating tin-foil hats, excavating nuclear fallout shelters in their backyards, and yelling about the end of days. Numerous media figures have been portrayed unfavorably over the years. Further examination of this generalization awaits in the next chapter (where it came from, its consequences, and how to overcome it). When Covid first appeared, people didn't put much stock in being prepared.

The quantity of knowledge and resources accessible for preparing has grown exponentially in recent years and is now considered mainstream. You can never study too much; thus, this is useful for first-timers and seasoned test takers.

Many people's earliest impressions of the first months of the Covid pandemic epidemic and its aftermath were those of sheer insanity. Extreme and widespread fear resulted from the shortage of available resources. Many of us were caught off guard by the fact that we couldn't just go out and purchase what we needed; instead, we had to make do with what we already had.

There is no better illustration than the current state of toilet paper. Since stores couldn't keep up with demand, they had to restrict consumers from buying just one roll of toilet paper. Pasta, beans, lentils, cereal, etc., flew off the shelves as people hurried to stock up. The value and scarcity of all the necessities skyrocketed. Why? For the simple reason that nobody expected a supply deficit.

Many people prepared for emergencies were probably watching the news and laughing at how stupid things had become. Having planned for lack of materials was helpful in this instance.

The advantages of preparation in our contemporary world are clear to us. We should all consider it; even if you're unwilling to create and equip a complete pantry room with canned soups and a year's supply of dry rice, at least have a small cache of food stashed in the back of a cabinet.

While the immediate effects of Covid have faded in most nations, what comes next is anyone's guess.

Many people prepared for emergencies were probably watching the news and laughing at how stupid things had become. Having planned for lack of materials was helpful in this instance.

If you have been contemplating planning for some time, now is a perfect moment to do so, given the wealth of firsthand knowledge and readily accessible materials. It's essential to get started before it's too late.

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CHAPTER 3 PREPPER DICTIONARY

There's a lot of jargon you may not be acquainted with when you start reading, listening to, or watching prepping-related content on the internet, in print, on podcasts, or on videos hosted on sites like YouTube.

This article defines some of the most common phrases in the preparing community. There are some instances of other frequent terms and phrases among preppers.

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CHAPTER 4 **PREPPING TERMS**

- The phrase "72-hour bag" may also refer to a prepacked emergency kit.
- The "Alpha Strategy" is stockpiling extra provisions for use in a catastrophic event, whether for commercial or personal purposes.
- What we call "Ballistic Wampum" is the ammunition kept for use in case of emergency.
- Big Berkley is a household water filtering device that effectively removes harmful microorganisms and chemicals.
- It would help if you always were prepared to "bug out, out" or leave your home quickly by packing a suitcase or backpack full of survival gear. You should prepare supplies for at least two or three days if you need to make a hasty exit (check out book 10 for more info about bug-out bags).
- A predetermined area away from home to which you may "bug out" in an emergency.
- A bug-out vehicle is a car with enough food, water, and other necessities for you and your loved ones to survive an emergency.

- The term "bugging in" refers to remaining inside in an emergency, often at one's residence.
- To bug out is to leave one's house in preparation for, or response to, an emergency.
- A doomer fervently believes that chaos and calamity are on the horizon. Typically, these peppers are more "hardcore."
- A Faraday Cage is a homemade shield that protects electronics from being destroyed by a solar flare or electromagnetic pulse (EMP). A metal garbage can or a box lined with aluminum foil will do the trick.
- Gamma Lids are used to keep food fresh and to protect against pests; they are made of a unique material that prevents air and liquid from escaping from plastic containers.
- In contrast to a Bug-out Bag, a Get Home Bag contains just necessities. Typically lasts for little more than 24 hours.
- Another name for an emergency supply kit is a "Go-To Bag."
- When the electricity grid fails, as it often does after being attacked by an EMP or CME, this is referred to as a "grid down."
- A larder is a kind of storage cupboard.
- Mylar Bags are foil bags that keep food fresh and free of contaminants, including light, moisture, and insects.
- A Pollyanna is someone with no hope that a significant calamity would ever occur in their

lifetime.

- A rendezvous point is a prearranged meeting site where everyone in an evacuation party may assemble.
- Humans, on average, can go without necessities for three days before they become life-threatening.
- In times of crisis, people tend to panic and blindly follow the lead of others around them, much like a flock of sheep.
- A solar oven is a box coated with foil and exposed to the sun to cook meals.
- A survival cache is a stash of emergency supplies and equipment concealed outdoors, away from your primary residence (preferably between your principal residence and your bug-out position).
- It's essential to have a backup if anything fails; otherwise, you'll be left with nothing.

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CHAPTER 5 CONQUERING YOUR WORRY ABOUT BEING READY

A ccepting that we are preparing for the survival of potentially life-threatening circumstances is the first step in the process. We wanted to add a few things to keep in mind when you begin preparation to make the process more manageable.

Fear is a normal emotion, so don't beat yourself up if you experience it while prepping. Remember that you're human and capable of feeling emotions. Even if there are instances when we'd want to disable them, we can't. If you can learn to embrace your fear instead of trying to run from it, you'll be much closer to conquering it. Worrying about what can happen is normal, but you shouldn't let that worry derail your preparedness.

While many folks save up in case of a global catastrophe, it's essential to remember that this isn't the only reason to be ready for the worst. We probably won't see any major disasters in our lives.

When first starting prepping, it's normal to have some apprehension and a sense of being swamped. The preparation process may be taxing since it often involves attending to many details. Prepare slowly and steadily, and don't put undue pressure on yourself to study or do too much in a short period.

Remember that just by reading this book, you are taking the first step in securing your future. Even if you haven't begun planning or stockpiling, you've already made the first step. Without wanting to sound too trite, things can only improve from here.

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CHAPTER 6 GUIDELINES FOR BEING A "SANE PREPPER"

This portion will discuss the criteria for distinguishing an average prepper from a "crazy" one. Follow these guidelines to get the most out of your preparation while being reasonable and logical.

- Be familiar with your financial constraints. We've previously established that a prepper's lifestyle requires a lot of money, so it's essential to be frugal. Before you go out and purchase anything, you should determine how much of your budget can be allocated to things like food, supplies, and tools.
- Keep in mind that there are certain things for which there is just no way to be ready. It would be remarkable if you could rest confident that you were prepared for whatever the world might throw at you, but in reality, it's pretty much impossible. Because, first and foremost, there are infinite possible outcomes, and you cannot possibly account for them all. It's wise to think about what may happen where you live, but don't

lose sight of the bigger picture; focusing too narrowly might backfire.

- Those that are prepared have a balance of these four areas: supplies, equipment, preparation, practice, community, and self. Try to avoid settling on one.
- Second, remember the 80/20 rule to keep your attention where it needs to be and to maximize your prepping efforts. For unfamiliar people, the 80-20 rule states that just 20% of efforts produce 80% of results. You may get by with less preparation and fewer resources if you consider that several circumstances might be brought about by applying the same precise answers to the same set of variables.
- Don't put too much stock in recalling facts and procedures. Certain things would be good to know by heart (such as how to build a fire and make a solar still), but if you take our advice and have a survivalist library at your farm, you'll already have much of this knowledge. Learn the fundamentals and the best practices for using the equipment at your disposal (especially in the beginning).
- Facts and sound arguments will always triumph over personal judgment. And that includes the community you frequent for survival advice on the internet. Don't believe everything you read; if you need more information on anything, look into it more.

- Be familiar with your financial constraints. We've previously established that a prepper's lifestyle requires a lot of money, so it's essential to be frugal. Before you go out and purchase anything, you should determine how much of your budget can be allocated to things like food, supplies, and tools.
- Those pre-game preparations deserve some credit. If you live a life of practice, you should be proud of it, even though many people may feel guilty about doing so due to media portrayals or clichés. You're doing the right thing by putting in your time and energy to improve yourself and the world around you. Always keep your head held high.

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PART TWO INSTRUCTIONS FOR ASPIRING PREPPERS

Now that we've covered the fundamentals of prepping, we can move on to more exciting topics.

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CHAPTER 7 THE SURVIVALIST MOVEMENT VS. PREPPING

- A "prepper" makes substantial efforts to ensure their safety in a significant calamity by amassing supplies such as food, weapons, and water.
- The term "survivalist" refers to someone who trains in and hones specialized outdoor survival skills in preparation for possible emergency scenarios.

W hen discussing the prepper way of life, many different phrases are bandied. Even if you're here to become an expert prepper, you've probably heard of "survivalists." Since the ultimate goal of both ways of life is to stay alive in a crisis, it's easy to see why people might confuse the two. That being said, what exactly is the distinction? Experienced preppers will recognize the stark contrast between these two approaches.

To better understand the differences between these two ways of living, let's take a closer look at each of these terms. The main distinction is in the method used for contingency planning.

- Survivalists believe that a minimalist lifestyle is essential for their group. They have received extensive training to handle various situations and often practice adapting their methods to address multiple challenges.
- In contrast, "preppers" acquire and store in advance all the necessities they will need in an emergency. Instead, they are concentrating on developing the knowledge and abilities necessary to sustain their current standard of living on base (often referred to as a "homestead").

To put it more simply, survivalists plan for a life of simplicity in the face of adversity, while preppers want to maintain their existing standard of living under adverse conditions.

Contrary to popular belief, the lines between survivalist and peppering are not always so clearly drawn. In addition to storing food and water in case of emergency, survivalists and preppers alike often train for the possibility of being forced to abandon their homes.

Preppers, however, will pack a "bug-out bag" if they must evacuate their houses. The contents of the "bug-out bag" are meant to be utilized in the event of an emergency and not for long-term storage. The contents of this bag are designed to support a person for a limited period, ideally until they can return to the farm. The emphasis is on ensuring that there are always supplies for the household. Survivalists know that in the event of an emergency, they will need to be self-sufficient for as long as possible. Thus they will load their packs with a wide variety of valuable items.

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CHAPTER 8 FURTHER EXPLORATION OF SURVIVALISM

Those serious about adopting a survivalist way of life should devote more time and energy to studying and practicing survival techniques. Knowing how to get by in the wilderness with just the essentials is a crucial skill for every survivalist, and the most important gear you can bring into nature is your brain. Let's pretend you take a survivalist and plop them down in the middle of a wilderness with nothing but the clothes on their backs. They require skills like collecting and purifying water and hunting, trapping, and preparing edible animals. It will also be necessary for kids to be aware of which plants might be fatal if consumed.

All a survivalist needs to get by may be carried in a single backpack. They prefer to rely on what the earth provides rather than what they have stored up (like preppers).

As we've already established, survivalists are minimalists, which is integral to their way of life. Those who choose to take up survivalism must learn to live without the creature conveniences we have grown to take for granted. Those methods include whatever we usually do to increase morale. It would help if you didn't worry about or plan for anything that isn't required to stay alive. Finding food, shelter, and water are the primary survival concerns, and they constitute the essentials. The survivalist frequently travels alone, making personal care essential.

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CHAPTER 9 PREPPING IN MORE DETAIL

C urvivalists and others who "prep" for disasters plan to live off the land they have secured. Since homesteading is a fundamental part of the prepping lifestyle, learning how to be self-sufficient via it is an essential part of the set of skills that every prepper must Therefore, deeper have. preppers will have a understanding of storing and preserving food for the extended future and growing and generating food from their property.

Keeping up with the survivalist lifestyle also entails taking care of the mundane tasks of life, including ensuring that the kids get a good education and providing some fun for the family. The most critical aspect of disaster preparation is maintaining the family's current standard of living as closely as feasible.

There is a far greater need for preppers to pay attention to security and self-defense now that they are stockpiling more essential items. After certain types of calamities, you can be confident that looters will focus on you and your supplies considerably more than they would on a survivalist with just a few tools. Guns and ammo are examples of goods that preppers are more inclined to stockpile. Since survivalists are often on the move, there is less need for these things. It goes without saying that if you want to be a prepper, you must learn how to shoot.

There are advantages and disadvantages, contexts in which preparation and survivalism are more appropriate, and difficulties associated with this way of living. There are a few mainstays that will determine the lifestyle path you choose:

- Do you want to live off the land like a "Survivalist," or do you want to build a haven where you can feel secure? (Prepper)
- Are you trying to find a means to provide for your loved ones, a community of people (Prepper), or simply yourself? (Survivalist)
- Do you want to be a survivalist and rely only on natural resources, or do you want to rely on the supplies you've meticulously gathered and stockpiled? (Prepper)

There is no clear winner; rather, it depends on the number of people you need to accommodate and the kind of lifestyle you choose. While the focus of this book will be on preparation, certain survivalist concepts may be included when applicable.

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CHAPTER 10 DOES PREPPING FIT INTO YOUR LIFESTYLE?

F or those just learning about prepping, the question "is prepping for me?" may arise. Getting started with prepping may be intimidating, with all the many aspects to think about and the sheer volume of work and study involved. How well do you think you'd do at it?

There's no avoiding the obvious here: yes. Although some people may find it easier to become effective preppers, everyone can learn the skills necessary to do so with the correct attitude, drive, and supplies.

If you still need persuading, let's look at some qualities that a prepper would find helpful. Consider whether or not you can relate to any of them, and if not, how you may go about making changes.

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CHAPTER 11 QUALITIES OF A RELIABLE PREPPER

I takes a lot of stuff, a lot of resources, and a lot of skills to be a successful, practical prepper. But before we get into the tools and knowledge necessary for successful prepping, let's look at the qualities that make it simpler for someone to be a top-quality prepper.

Several characteristics will be discussed in the next section, but here is a quick rundown of the basics every prepper needs to know.

Being self-motivated, resourceful, and well-controlled are also highly desirable qualities, as is a genuine interest in expanding one's knowledge and skillset.



J eing self-motivated-It may not come as a surprise preparation needs a lot of study that and understanding, given the length of this book and the breadth of the content we cover (many parts that would be called "basic" prepping knowledge). If you're a prepper, you'll have the satisfaction of knowing that you and your loved ones are safe from harm. It's a great chance to develop your skills and get the knowledge you wouldn't have access to any other way. It can range from the most fundamental, like knowing how to ration food to ensure adequate sustenance over a long period, to the most specific, like learning how to use a coffee filter for a wide variety of purposes in the wild (for more on this, check out book 4's section on items with multiple functions).

The most important quality is a lifelong commitment to learning. As with everything else in life, you get out of prepping what you put into it. Not only does this need dedication, but also time. In the event of an emergency, having spent only a few hours every week out of your hectic schedule learning a new skill or refining a crafts method might be the difference between life and death. Additionally, if you have a genuine interest in learning, you'll have a far better time doing it. In the end, prepping isn't simply a pastime. In other words, it's a way of life. It would help if you put in a lot of time and effort, so make sure you're really into it. You can't prep effectively if you don't give it your complete attention. All or nothing; thus, continue your education and have fun! Those sitting there wondering, "But there's so much to learn; where do I even begin?" are not alone. The sheer breadth of material that might be considered "prepping" can be intimidating to those just getting started in the field. The portions of this book that detail the most important skillsets for a prepper to acquire and the most common pitfalls they should try to avoid are excellent places to begin. Making a list of questions you want to answer or are intrigued about will help you get started if you're still stuck. Reduce the number to no more than five and keep them straight. Begin by reading this book and other resources to get your needed answers.

Improve-Even if you spend days, weeks, or even years planning for a catastrophe, it's unlikely that things will play out precisely as you want them to. Perhaps things have changed significantly, or you've found yourself responsible for an enormous household. Life has a way of happening. Foreseeing the outcomes of certain events makes it difficult to prepare for them adequately.

It's easy to spend a lot of time fretting about all the "what if" scenarios that may occur worldwide. The ability to improvise is crucial in situations like these. You can make it through any crisis if you keep your cool and come up with reasonable and rational fresh ideas and solutions.

Planning your next move on the fly requires a healthy dose of improvisation. But it might also include things like figuring out who to task in an emergency or evaluating the efficacy of your instruments. Successful leaders frequently have a knack for the spur of the moment and can keep their cool under pressure, two skills you'll need if you want to assume a leadership position in your prepared case.

Being able to adjust to new situations quickly and effectively is a vital skill comparable to improvisation. After many generations of development, this ability is now ingrained in most of the human population. Adjusting to a new setting or set of circumstances will make it harder for you and your organization to thrive. The ideal strategy is to be open to adjusting and not to become rigid in one's adherence to the plan. Obstacles will always arise, but you shouldn't let them derail you. All you have to do is have an open mind, be ready to deal with anything that comes your way, be vigilant, and always plan for the worst-case scenario and the minor possible contingency-related to every possible situation. Planning theoretically may be pretty exhausting, so don't do it too much when you're just getting started preparing (the most vital thing, in the beginning, is creating your entire plans first), but it will provide you with a bit of peace of mind to get into the habit of doing so later on.



Resourceful-Being, a naturally resourceful individual, will always pay off in any circumstance. Having an innovative mindset means you'll actively seek out and implement creative solutions to any challenges you confront, expected or not. If you're stranded in the woods, how will you stay hydrated? Have you had the equipment necessary to gather it and clean it up? Is there more you can do than not drink the water if you're worried about its safety?

As you learn more about preparation, many answers to questions like these will be provided, and you should readily pick up on conventional explanations.

The more you learn about prepping, the more you'll discover that common issues like this have conventional answers, and you'll pick them up without effort.

You're the kind of person that can go into any situation and make it work in your favor.

People tend to look to individuals with the most incredible resources during emergencies, as they are most likely to keep things stable. Thomas Jefferson once stated that never bother someone for something you can accomplish for yourself. Please don't wait for people to come to you with their problems; instead, be the one to provide creative answers.

Self-control - A person in a survival scenario knows how crucial and challenging this may be. Keeping calm in a crisis can help you face obstacles and develop ideas and strategies more quickly. Even though it's hard to completely devoid yourself of feelings, you should do your best to keep them muted and under control. Especially if you're going to be the homestead's leader and make all the critical choices, this is something you should pay attention to. The ability to think is essential while making life-or-death choices.

You probably don't need me to explain this one. Being eager and driven to survive is essential. A strong sense of motivation will help you put in your best effort in all you do and will make it simpler to confront and conquer obstacles.

Practice-It may be challenging to locate this inspiration, but it is a fact nevertheless. If you're cooped up in your house for a long time, you can find that your motivation wanes. The most accessible approach to combat this is to keep thinking about why you're doing what you're doing in the first place; why are you investing so much time and money into learning survival skills and stocking up on food? Having kids should make the decision easy. Try not to be too harsh on yourself when your drive begins to wane. Just try not to let it dampen your initiative or outlook.



As we said before, a lot of time, energy, and experience are required to master the art of adequate preparation. Unless you spend considerable time studying the best pantry organization methods, your initial attempt is unlikely to result in the most efficient setup. Indoor gardening novices should not expect a bumper crop on their first attempt. When you first try to use flint to start a fire, it may take a few tries before you manage to create a spark. Getting better at anything requires time and, most of the time, several efforts. The ability to stick with a task despite setbacks is, thus, a critical quality among effective preppers. Do not quit if, initially, you fail. One picks themselves up, shakes off their failure, and tries again.

Although the adage "Rome wasn't built in a day" has been overused, it nevertheless captures a significant idea you should keep in mind as you embark on your path into preparation. Learn more about preppers by looking them up online. People with vast stores of everything from food to emergency supplies to mountains of gear that most preppers can only dream of and that costs a small fortune to acquire are just a few examples of the bizarre things you can expect to see. You will encounter individuals who have knowledge and abilities you have never before thought helpful or even heard. Avoid becoming disappointed by the seeming superiority of these preppers; they have gotten where they are after putting in many hours of study and practice. Each survivalist must first build from scratch.

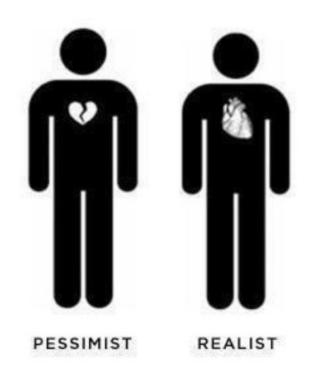
The key to being a successful and effective prepper is not to give up and keep doing the job, just as the preparing lifestyle equips us with the means to resist giving in to tragedy.

The Value of Spartacism-As we said before, resourcefulness is essential for preppers, and so is frugality. Although it's important to stock up on supplies

and invest in new tools before an emergency strikes, we have to do with what we have now. It May calls for innovative problem-solving or flexibility, but you are expected to minimize waste and provide viable solutions.

Ask yourself, "Do I need this?" before making large purchases. Or are you simply wishing for it because you find it desirable or because it would be helpful to you? If the latter is the case, think about how you can make do without new equipment using what you currently have on hand. Learning to "make do" is a vital skill since we may not always have access to the conveniences we are used to in the future.

Realism and pessimism -It's vital to distinguish between realism and pessimism before proceeding. A realistic person would not be the one who sits in the corner and moans that nothing can do and that everyone should quit—another name for someone who can only see the bad in any given circumstance.



If you're a prepper, keeping a positive outlook in the face of adversity is crucial. The inability to get things done due to persistent pessimism might be fatal.

I think a statement best summarizes this I read recently in the Prepper area of Quora: "Preppers prepare for the worst, but hope for the best." Yet, it's important to note that the scenarios we're training for aren't all peaches and cream. The best way to solve an issue is to take a step back and look at it objectively. Sometimes it's hard to accomplish something because of this or that. If a loved one of yours is harmed or if you're under a lot of stress, for instance. If this occurs, it's best to take a big breath, stand back, and figure out how to solve the problem in the most efficient way possible. No value judgments, positive or negative, should be made. They should appreciate what they are. **Having empathy-** There will be many people in need if you go to a place that has been hit by a natural catastrophe, particularly if they have been forced to leave their homes. It's humane to reach out and assist them, even if it's only with an extra blanket, some cookies, or some medication. There is no wrong in being a good neighbor.



But remember that it's better to be safe than sorry in these circumstances. Before deciding to aid these individuals or provide them with materials, be sure doing so won't put you or your loved ones in danger. While it's admirable to give a hand to people in need, you shouldn't get your loved ones in trouble.

Interests in hobbies-



The term "functional preparation skills" may describe various pastimes. Things you've learned, like how to fish or cook, will always be helpful on your farm.

You and your family will benefit from having these interests and making time to pursue them, and your homestead will benefit from your enjoyment of them. No one ever thinks homesteading might be boring if you're entirely cut off from the rest of society. In times like this, it's essential to have various interests to keep you occupied and sane.

Natural Ability in Planning-



It should come as no surprise at this point that preparation necessitates advance work. As we've already established, prepping entails planning and preparation to ensure readiness for any eventuality. If you are the kind of person who enjoys setting goals and organizing your time, then prepping will come effortlessly to you. Having the right mind is crucial if you are not a natural planner. Make it simpler by developing the habit of writing things down and organizing your thoughts and actions.

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CHAPTER 12 EXTREME INCIDENTS VS SLOW DECAY

It's simpler to picture abrupt catastrophes, like a massive storm or a nuclear assault, that would bring our society to a halt. Preparation for unexpected happenings is more straightforward in some respects. You're prepared with a bug-out bag, a retreat strategy, food stocks, etc. You feel prepared to deal with the widespread panic.

What about a gradual fall, though? When faced with a "boiling frog" situation, many individuals fail to see the importance of being well-prepared.

It's plausible to extrapolate the ongoing decline problems we will confront from current experiences—just a few instances when this occurs.

- Worse weather is the norm. The climate is changing everywhere on Earth from year to year. Extreme temperature swings, increased or decreased precipitation, etc.
- Water Recent issues symbolize how thousands of people might suddenly find themselves without a steady supply of potable water.

- Food. Our food system has become so industrialized that it is practically hurting us. Recent movements toward eating locally and organically, as well as technological developments like indoor farming, are fantastic. Despite this, there is always the chance that a local food supply is contaminated, that food stocks deplete quickly in an emergency, agricultural and animal outputs unexpectedly plummet because of unusual weather or water concerns, etc.
- The fundamentals of a free society are deteriorating. We risk losing the building blocks of a free and prosperous society due to the loss of net neutrality, the pervasiveness of government snooping, the paralysis in Washington, and an ignorant voting population.
- Workers market. Some say we're already here, but it's so early that the majority of us can't yet see it occurring with the advantage of hindsight. It's become more challenging for the typical individual to maintain a healthy work-life balance and meet the financial needs of a middle-class family. When the once-reliable engine begins to stumble, it usually means a drop in take-home earnings and an increase in long-term unemployment and underemployment.

A catastrophe can be widespread and personal, just like an emergency might come rapidly or slowly. It's natural to worry about global catastrophes like a collapsed society. Still, you also need to be prepared for smaller-scale threats that might strike your city, neighborhood, or even your own house and family members.

While the enormous SHTF tragedies are certainly on our minds, we also make plans for more minor emergencies, such as the vehicle accidents we could see on the way home from work or the possibility that our next-door neighbors might suffer a house fire. We're saving enough so that if any of us loses our job and is out of work for a year, the rest of the family won't suffer.

You can quickly devise a list of actual, everyday crises you may confront.

- Automobile mishaps. Breakdowns. Imprisoned by the snow.
- Any health issues. Strokes. Attacks to the heart. Bones are broken. Burns.
- Brutality inside the home. Assault. Rape. Fights.
- Muggings. Robberies. Carjacking.
- Break-ins are happening more and more often.
- Fires. The water pipes froze over. The backyard was packed with giant creatures.
- An interruption in service caused the lights to go out.
- Trapped in a lift.
- Hiking and ending up lost.

Suppose three individuals, on average, were present at the scene of an accident and observed its immediate aftermath. There are now three potential responses to the situation.

We may safely disregard the minor scrapes and bruises thanks to the 6.3 million accidents reported to the police. We will assume that the overall number of casualties is proportional to the distribution of fatalities between rural and urban areas. It equates to almost 5% of the population, or 18 million individuals, who saw an automobile accident in 2017.

Those aren't simply theoretical probabilities of seeing a vehicle catastrophe; they're complex data that prove your life is in danger. Automatic driving will reduce those numbers, yes. Yet this is only one example of people's everyday problems, and it will still be a significant issue in ten years.

The "go home bag" is the counterpart of the more common "bug out bag." It's a good idea to keep a "get home bag" packed and ready to go in a location outside the house, such as your car trunk, office, or another safe area, so that in the event of an emergency while you're away from home, you can get the necessities you need and get back to your place of residence quickly.

Those go-home bags come in handy not just if the zombies break out while you're sitting in your cube but also if you're on your way home from work and see a wreck.

You're not just going to be a bystander, rubbernecking and taking pictures of the disaster for Instagram; you'll also be able to provide rudimentary aid, thanks to your readiness. A decent citizen is within your reach.

Your credibility will increase in criminal and civil cases if you come prepared. Being calm and knowing what to look for will set you apart from the average person who would be thrown by the unexpected.

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CHAPTER 13 FOR WHAT EXACTLY ARE PREPPERS STOCKING UP?

A swe'll see in a little, there are many factors to consider before deciding to take up Prepping. One of them is a strong motivation to learn new abilities. One more is to join a constantly expanding group and inspire new ideas. However, the primary motive will be what most people would expect: to be ready for potential emergencies. Indeed, some of these are much more severe than others.



Natural Disasters/Extreme Weather

Extreme weather events include drought, floods, earthquakes, hurricanes, solar flares, heat waves, tsunamis, tornadoes, winter storms, typhoons, volcanoes, landslides, wildfires, and climate change—the whole gamut of anything Mother Nature chooses to throw at us.

Disasters Caused by Human Actions

Problems caused by people, such as cyberattacks, nuclear accidents, war, terrorism, and EMP (electromagnetic pulse) strikes.

Difficulties with Finance

Examples include inflation, economic collapse, joblessness, an absence of employment, a sluggish economy, a depressed economy, and so on.

Dangers to Public Health

Pandemics, epidemics (Covid). A person may get unwell or possibly die from contracting any infectious disease.

Discontent in the community

For whatever reason, you may need to take precautions to defend yourself and your houses, such as a break-in, a lack of food, theft, arson, gang violence, rioting, murder, or an invasion of your home.

The alternative of going through these difficulties is not appealing to us. Being a Prepper does not indicate a desire for these things to occur; instead, it permits us to be ready if they do.

Some of these occurrences are more probable than others, but that depends on your position and location. Have your home in a nation where political instability and corruption are typical. The frequency of riots and social unrest may increase in certain areas, while people spend more time and energy preparing for such events in others, such as those with a high risk of natural disasters. To be ready for what lies ahead, it is a good idea to be abreast of current events locally and internationally. It will give you a better sense of when certain occurrences are likely to occur.

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CHAPTER 14 DISPELLING SOME MYTHS ABOUT PREPPERS

M any individuals who aren't preppers themselves have false beliefs about others. Firstly, there is the widespread misconception that it is pointless to prepare in advance. Second, there is the annoying "mad prepper" stereotype that gives preppers a lousy reputation and discourages others from attempting to prepare or taking the matter seriously.

If there's one question concerning planning about which individuals have strong opinions, it's probably this one: "how beneficial is it to prep?" Is it worth spending so much time and energy acquiring the skills, putting so much money into your food supply, and worrying about things that may or may not happen in the future?

Every argument has two sides, so let's discuss the drawbacks.

- Pointless
- Not pointless

Pointless- If you don't do it well, preparation might be a waste of time. In addition to being awful preparation,

storing all these things in your basement "just in case" is much closer to hoarding than prepping. Just because you have a lot of stuff lying around doesn't mean you're prepared if you don't have a way to put it to use in an emergency.

Similarly, several businesses are seizing the possibilities presented by preparation, going mainstream, and selling what they call "survival kits" — essentially just a backpack with everything you could need. In the minds of consumers, they are the silver bullet to any survival problems. If you're new to prepping or don't want to put in the effort to make an extensive supply, buying them might be a viable option. Nonetheless, these kits are sometimes oversimplified and fail to account for several factors that preppers should. Therefore, there is less of a Prepper mindset when purchasing these kits than a consumer one.

Preppers themselves, as well as many others, have argued that it is useless to stockpile supplies for every possible emergency. Extreme "doomsday" preppers, for instance, who spend their time constructing underground bunkers or preparing for some mass-apocalyptic event, would be seen by many as being too cautious and unnecessary.

One primary reason is the widespread belief that preparations for such events would be pointless since they won't happen in our lifetime.

Preparation for snowstorms, automobile breakdowns, and power outages is far more important to these folks.

Some argue that preparing for disaster is futile since it just delays what is sure to happen eventually, particularly in the case of large-scale disasters. Since we will all perish whether the world ends or not, there is no point in trying to stop it. It is a somewhat pessimistic and dismal viewpoint, and it is not one shared by many people.

Not pointless- It is not meaningless to stockpile necessities like canned soup and water bottles. Consider a few of the explanations for this. You're on your own when "something" starts to happen.

It is foolish to expect that the government would be able to rescue everyone during a tragedy, even if you support your country's leadership and have no doubts about trusting the processes and resources they have in place. Consider how long it took nations to respond with help when Covid initially appeared. Recent events have shown that our governing structures are not always equipped to help those suffering when these crises occur. It isn't to claim that governments are inept; instead, it's to point out that they don't have enough money to assist everyone properly. To anticipate help in times of need is unrealistic. Prepare yourself financially since you will need to do so. Short for "prepper," for those who save food and supplies for emergency use.

The conveniences and comforts that define contemporary life have also made it vulnerable to disruption. Those younger generations of our planet, those under the age of 21, have seen multiple wars, innumerable natural catastrophes, economic collapse, and a worldwide epidemic. While a zombie apocalypse or other major failure of civilization is unlikely, we should never rule out the possibility, especially in light of historical precedent. A guy compared preparation to buying insurance on Quora, an internet community with many interesting articles about the process of prepping. Everybody knows they must protect their new home or automobile investment with an insurance policy. You don't purchase it because you think you'll need it, but rather for the "just in case" scenarios that no one ever questions as unreasonable. Preparation is similar to planning for worst-case scenarios.

A little preparation never hurts anybody.

We've already established that some individuals consider preparation futile since they believe it wastes time. Still, I have to ask, what exactly is a waste? Learning how to prepare provides a wealth of knowledge and experience that can use in many other facets of our life. In light of our food stores, we may learn more about nutrition, food storage, recipes, food safety, and preservation techniques like canning and preserving by constructing one. Someday, every piece of this puzzle will fit together and make sense. Furthermore, these abilities will be helpful or perhaps necessary, given the need for crucial Prepper skills like first aid or sewing garments. What's the harm in that, then?

If you want to be an extreme Prepper or not, the only time I'd say preparing is damaging is if you're spending (or squandering) a lot of money on it. Preppers, particularly newcomers, should be aware of this since it runs against the spirit of preparedness, which is to be thrifty and realize that it is needless to splurge.

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CHAPTER 15 ESSENTIAL SURVIVAL SKILLS FOR SURVIVALISTS TO ACQUIRE

N ow that we've covered the qualities a good prepper should have, we can focus on the abilities they need. Again, it's essential to look over this list and note any abilities you don't have or aren't using. The emphasis of your study should be on preparation, investigation, and exercise of the relevant skills.

Whether your first day of preparation or your tenthousandth, we all have a standard set of skills that need our attention and effort. There's no question that if you're currently a prepper, you should already be acquainted with these abilities. However, reviewing this list allows you to assess how well you've mastered each. Can you do it as well as you'd want, or do you need to hone your talents further?

Most people's first thought about the prepper lifestyle is where they can get all the necessary supplies. Don't get us wrong. There are numerous "things" need to guarantee good preparation and planning. Of course, tools are useless if their users lack the knowledge to put them to good use. But before we go into it, let's talk about these abilities. Additionally, planning for the worst-case situation is essential to become ready. We must consider the possibility of unexpectedly uprooting your life because your house is attacked and damaged. The abilities you've honed over the years will be tested if you're suddenly in a situation where you can't use the supplies you've amassed. Your hard work in preparation for the exam will pay off. There is a clear distinction between preppers and survivalists, as we addressed in the first book in this series. The point of preparing is to put yourself in a position where you can guarantee your life, even in the worst-case scenario. And in the end, these talents may decide the difference between survival or not.

Having the proper abilities is, thus, essential. To save time, we've developed a list of must-have skills for every survivalist.

Skills in: providing first aid; surviving in the wilderness; gardening; housekeeping; mending or fixing things around the house; defending oneself

Providing first aid



Familiarity with first aid procedures comes as no surprise. Learning basic first aid techniques, including

applying pressure to a cut to stop bleeding, cleaning an injury, performing cardiopulmonary resuscitation, and using sutures, may save a person's life. Skills that may protect your life or the lives of your loved ones are among the most crucial to acquire.

It's suggested that you become certified in first aid by taking a course if one is offered. While it is true that selfstudy may be helpful, taking a class is the best way to get the hands-on experience you'll need to respond effectively in an emergency.

It's also wise to have a good first aid book nearby in an emergency.

Housekeeping

Maintaining a pleasant and healthy home environment includes keeping it clean and well-maintained. It's easy to make a mess of things when numerous people stay on a farm. Creating a weekly rotating task list is a great approach to encourage everyone on base to help with basic housekeeping. It's a beautiful method for encouraging household participation and will lead to a more pleasant atmosphere overall. As a bonus, it will occupy people's time.

Giving everyone a specific job will give the group a sense of purpose and direction, boosting output and motivation.

Possessing the ability to repair clothes, cook from scratch, clean the house properly, do laundry without a washing machine, etc., are all instances of practical homekeeping abilities.

Mending or fixing things around the house

Various instruments and skillsets are required to repair the garden or around the house. Fixing anything yourself involves knowledge of how to use standard tools like a handsaw and hammer. I know what you're thinking: "Yet, wouldn't it be obvious to use such measures? To what use would it serve me to hone my skills?" It's essential to practice any talent you want to master, no matter how basic it may seem. Your hand is the last thing you want to accidentally hammer when fixing your door; it's challenging to keep the homestead running as it is without having to deal with bruises or bandages. Skills in essential maintenance, such as plumbing, welding, and carpentry, are invaluable at the homestead and in the community.



Defending oneself

Protection of oneself and one's loved ones is a cornerstone of effective prepping. While it's true that having access to firearms and ammunition might be helpful, it's also wise to have training on how to defend yourself physically in the event of an attack. A martial art may be practiced as a form of self-defense and as a means of physical fitness.

Having a plan to protect your house and possessions is just as vital as having a plan to defend yourself physically. To protect yourself, traps set up in the surrounding forest (if it is your property) are a great idea.

If you want to arm yourself for protection, ensure you're well-versed in its usage and have enough experience before you need to rely on your skills with it in an actual situation.

Transparent About Your Prepping

Since disclosing information about one's stockpile or shelter might have dire consequences in the event of a calamity, many individuals prepare in secrecy. A large number of hapless strangers may show up at your door, along with a few jerks.

Preparing in private, away from the scrutiny of loved ones, is a common strategy.

You've only just adopted this new way of life, after all! You're interested in learning from and conversing with the individuals you encounter because you're enthusiastic, driven, and gaining knowledge. I'll divide your connections with other people into two groups to determine the bounds of what is appropriate to share and what is not.

- Family, friends, and network of other preppers
- Workmates or people you've just met.

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CHAPTER 16 FAMILY, FRIENDS, AND NETWORK OF OTHER PREPPERS

y definition, they are the individuals who will play an essential role in your preparations since this status requires them. Individuals in your immediate community or those you know who have struck out on their own will make up this group. They need to know all you know about your preparations. They should be aware of and entirely back your practice, so there's no need to be ambiguous or lie to them about your tactics or plan. Doing so might put you in harm's way in the future. Honesty is essential while dealing with these people. People you care about are likely to be a part of this group, while others who aren't acquainted with preparation could disagree. Partners that have issues with your prepping efforts should also be included here. The main goal of preparation conversations with rank B is to introduce them to prepping as a lifestyle and get their acceptance. These individuals will depend on you in a time Therefore, getting them involved in of catastrophe. preparing on their own is essential. It would help if you didn't seem "overly enthused" or go too deep into your preparations when promoting them.



The decision for this level is much less nuanced: do what is most at ease. Members of this status should be kept as informed as possible about what's going on and how things function in the homestead so they can contribute effectively. Also, these people should be familiar with your whole preparation routine if they have to participate.

It might be helpful if this niche includes individuals from different settlements. Having a neighboring settlement part of your network improves your safety and security. Having many groups acquire unique goods and then divide them evenly can simplify stockpiling. The presence of cattle at a neighboring farm may provide an opportunity to barter part of your harvest for some of their meat. Working together simplifies the homestead-survival method for everyone. It's helpful to have someone to talk to about preparation who isn't immediate family, and it's even better to have people bounce ideas off of or receive input on particular systems, techniques, or plans you've developed.

To a large extent, it is determined by the person's classification. It might be advantageous to maintain a degree of secrecy, or it could be helpful to provide a few

additional details. Many individuals won't easily fall into these categories. Therefore, it's up to you to decide where they belong. Therefore, the best option is usually the one that seems like the most incredible idea. Do what you know is right. To be safe, you should advise these men to save enough food and water for three months. Avoid stressing how much more you have so that people don't rush to you as soon as they run out.

If they find out your supplies are much greater than you let on, explain to them you didn't want to look insane to them (it's probably best not to add that you didn't want them to come after you if they ran out since it might make your relationship a little awkward).

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CHAPTER 17 WORKMATES OR PEOPLE YOU HAVE JUST MET WITH

M any folks at this level don't know much about planning, so they may be intrigued about what you've been doing to prepare. Your goal in talking to these folks about preparation should be to give them an easy-tounderstand overview of the concept and some helpful pointers to get them interested in prepping on their own. They are more likely to go home and study on it if you manage to stimulate their interest without making them believe you're a lunatic Prepper!



indicate just shouldn't how thorough your You while talking folks preparations to this are in category (unless you trust them). It is particularly true when talking about the food and weapons you have stashed away since these are the first items people will look for should things turn nasty.

You can get away without intentionally misleading people. Just avoid specifics.

Don't draw attention to yourself by labeling yourself a "crazy Prepper" by saying things like, "I'm prepared because I'm afraid of an EMP or a nuclear assault." Focus on minor, more plausible situations like weather difficulties, money concerns, etc., while presenting the benefits of preparation.

You should be cautious to avoid mentioning things that the individual is likely to be opposed to if you know them well enough to anticipate their objections. Focus more on preparing skills rather than defense and ammo when dealing with someone you know has an aversion to firearms (such as home keeping or first aid)

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CHAPTER 18

DISTINCTIVE FEATURES OF Preparedness that set it apart From Stockpiling Purchasing

S ome prepper myths and stereotypes stem from the fact that some people acquire more supplies than they need. A good Prepper has to stock up on supplies to guarantee their survival, but this isn't one of them.

Preppers have been accused of being nothing more than hoarders or panic purchasers. It couldn't be farther from the truth! For the sake of defining

Stereotypes- Whoever has been prepared for any length of time or seen Preppers portrayed in Hollywood films will be familiar with the Prepper cliché we will discuss.

"Doomsday Prepper" is a pejorative term for a particular sort of Prepper who is generally portrayed in a very unfavorable light.

It's important to note that there are people who are so dedicated to the prepping lifestyle that they'll go to great lengths to ensure their safety in the event of a disaster. Take, for instance, the Canadian doomsday Prepper, who built four mansions equipped as "eco-fortresses," stocked with enough food and water to last for months, bulletproof windows, mantraps, CCTV, panic rooms, and a nuclear family. It's simple to see why individuals with these traits get a bad rap and why others may label them as obsessive, insane, unhinged, or paranoid.



Accepting this generalization and any accompanying criticism is second nature to some. There's no shame in taking pride in the way of life you've worked so hard to perfect.

Obsessive behavior, or the suggestion that it may be connected to mental instability, is commonly mentioned in conjunction with hoarding. For those unfamiliar with the preparing lifestyle, it may seem that Preppers are nothing more than hoarders.

Someone living an everyday life may think that hoarding supplies are excessive. Instead of relying on our resources, should put faith individuals in the community's infrastructure. We are expected to have confidence in the financial system, the business community, the trading community, the markets. Disregarding and these mechanisms and raising doubts about the durability of our global constitutions is seen as very aberrant.

If you accept this premise, preparing is an act of activism in opposition to crony capitalism, corrupt government, and the illusion of infinite supplies that underpins much of the free market.

After reading this manual, you'll see that preparation is the obvious, rational way to cope with disasters. However, some individuals refuse to entertain the idea of preparation

as a way of life. People's fear of preparation as a concept might contribute to the notion that peppers are insane or mad. The thought of anything happening to disrupt their peaceful existence and put their children in danger is too much for them to bear. Having such a scary experience is with natural. When confronted such а person, preparedness experts typically use the chance to inspire others "But consider the consequences for your loved ones if you fail to take action. The end effect would be catastrophic ". This approach, known as "fear-based preparation," is not recommended since it will make most people even more reluctant to adopt a survivalist lifestyle. It, alas, is ingrained in our species.

People's preconceived notions about preppers are reinforced by the fact that those who engage in the activity are often seen as too eager and a little too weird. Despite the unfavorable connotation, I can understand where this misconception comes from, seeing as how most preppers about the topic. For most people, enthusiastic are preparing is more than just a pastime; it influences many aspects of their day-to-day lives and choices. Preppers will eager to share their excitement alwavs be about preparation. While this may be frustrating for some, it is an inevitable result and nothing to be embarrassed by for those who practice prepping.

Find a preparing community, either online or in person, to talk to if the individuals you hang out with are making unfavorable remarks or assumptions about your preparation.

- These views exist because the general public is either misinformed or uneducated about Prepper culture and its tenets. To change this impression for the better, you could elaborate on your motivations for preparation and provide some methods that others might join you. Suppose you're having the first conversation about practice with someone who isn't a pepper. In that case, it's best not to utilize any prepping terminology since this will only confuse them and give us a bad reputation as strange geeks.
- Defend your decision to prepare for whatever may come by outlining your motivations and suggesting some methods they may use. Many people see preparation as illogical and futile. Therefore all it takes to persuade them is a conversation about planning that is straightforward and logical.
- As the adage goes, you can't prepare for every possible contingency. You shouldn't feel obligated to persuade everyone you encounter to give preparation a go. Whatever motivates the person you meet to remain unmoved by your preparation advice is none of your business. Put, dropping it would be wise if we want to prevent future confrontation.

Those you can persuade in the end will be eternally grateful. Some are preferable to none!

Since some people still have false and inaccurate beliefs about preppers, we feel it's essential to set the record straight away: being prepared is not a reflection of paranoia or extreme politics.

The reality usually lies somewhere in the middle of most stereotypes. As the "prepper" movement gained prominence, many prominent bloggers and media figures hailed from the far right of the political spectrum in rural areas. Additionally, a few were armed with extremist beliefs and ideologies.

Hoarding- There is evidence that hoarding is a symptom of mental illness, and the conduct is typically associated with compulsive or illogical practices. Although we insiders know better, others who are unfamiliar with the preparing lifestyle may mistake us for hoarders.



Stockpiling may seem obsessive or pointless to the average person. The community's mechanisms are there for us to rely on, not our resources, and this is something we should do as individuals. Everyone should believe in the financial system, the economy, and the markets. It is unusual for people to reject these mechanisms and cast doubt on the strength of our global constitutions.

From this notion, one might conclude that preparing is a sort of activism - part of the struggle against governmental

corruption and capitalism and how capitalism sometimes falsely promises an unlimited supply of resources.

Throughout history, it's frequently been the individuals doing something "out of the usual" or "against the system" who are thought insane or strange. Sadly, preppers often go under similar scrutiny for the same reasons.

Let's look at further arguments that show how preparation differs from hoarding.

• Strategizing

Preppers systematically add the fundamental distinction between preparing and the above habits to stockpiles. In contrast to panic buys, Hoarders tend to add to their collection out of compulsive impulses rather than in response to external pressures or crises. As a result of their meticulous planning, every item in a prepper's shopping cart has a specific and well-considered function. Preppers never purchase supplies they won't need, while panic buys hoarders sometimes ignore the "is this and item necessary?" inquiry in favor of filling their shelves. One could glance at a Prepper's storage closet and conclude, "There's no way they need all those supplies!" However, every Prepper knows the importance of avoiding wasting food, so they keep an inventory and usually have many meal ideas at their disposal. In the process of preparation, nothing is overlooked or wasted. Ever.

• Product Range

A Prepper's stockpile is more adaptable and diverse than a hoarder's. When individuals hoard, they tend to retain a lot of the same item, like a lot of decorations or newspapers or anything. It is the primary distinction between preparation and hoarding.

Problems, including insect infestations, arise when hoarders retain too much of something and don't take the necessary precautions to preserve it securely.

Preppers typically take extra measures to safeguard their supplies against such threats. Some people recommend combining dry goods (rice and beans) with bay leaves while preserving them, while others suggest using sealed bags or plastic containers.

• Sharing items

As a further distinction, preppers are often more generous with their resources than hoarders or panic shoppers. As a result of all their preparation, Preppers are more likely to have extra supplies, or at least things they've set aside expressly to trade or barter for other goods.

Because they worry so much about running out in the future, hoarders and panic buyers are less inclined to pool their resources. People who panic and buy too much of a single item out of fear of running out are terrible examples of hoarders since they would never dream of giving any of their purchases away.



• Organization

Unlike hoarders and panic buys, a Prepper's stockpile is always well-organized. A Google image search for "Prepper pantry" will provide several pictures of neatly shelved containers and bags. Preppers take great satisfaction in their well-organized pantries and will take considerable measures to ensure that their food supplies are always available when needed. People who shop in a panic are more prone to stock up on various products and store them in a single enormous pile in one area of their home. The very nature of prepping necessitates careful forethought. Therefore, their methods are always more methodical.



• Increasingly Valuable Items

Hoarders tend to hoard things that have little practical use or value. Prepper supplies, on the other hand, are likely to serve several purposes and help set the stage for a pleasant everyday existence. Before making a purchase, preppers ask themselves if the item would improve the efficiency of their farm; products that will only collect dust aren't a priority.

Although it varies from person to person, studies show that books, paper, clothes, boxes, plastic bags, etc., are the most often hoarded objects. In the event of an emergency, these supplies are not likely to save your life. Preppers, however, put greater emphasis on storing food and other critical non-food things that may be used in a crisis.

As you can see, the distinctions between preparation and panic purchasing or stockpiling are vast. The critical difference between hoarders and preppers is that the latter meticulously and strategically prepare and develop their supplies in advance.

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PART THREE Skills for real-world adventures

You'll find many "styles" of preparation when you start to think about it as a way of life, with some being more practical, cost-effective, or comprehensive than others. Some individuals incorporate preparation into their life on the side, while others allow it completely take over their lives, bordering on obsession. There's nothing wrong with being enthusiastic about a new interest or way of life, but if you're investing tens of thousands of dollars into it and it's all you can speak about or think about, you may want to take a break and regroup.

It is especially true today, when so many people have access to books and websites dedicated to the topic of preparation and when so much terrible advice and disinformation is floating around for people to follow. Your preparedness efforts, whatever they may be, should be within your capabilities and the safety parameters you've established for yourself, so it's essential to view any information with skepticism. <u>OceanofPDF.com</u> <u>OceanofPDF.com</u>

CHAPTER 19 BASIC RULES TO FOLLOW

W ith that in mind, let's examine some guidelines for how "prepping" generally need to be done:

- Everything you do should have a purpose and get you closer to your preparation goals since the entire point of prepping is to create a lifestyle that enables you to be prepared for scenarios. It would help if you acted in a way that would help you in an emergency.
- We've already established that you shouldn't have to go into debt or put undue stress on your family's budget because of your prepping. Make sure you sit down and figure out how much money you can reasonably allocate to practice before you spend any money on related items. That's why I qualified it with "within reason," as you'll need to put more money into prepping if you want to be ready. You shouldn't expect to spend anything since more money will guarantee more dependable equipment and better supplies.

- Every action you do should serve to calm your mind. We can rest easy knowing that our family will be provided for and cared for in the event of a catastrophe or other calamity since that is the very point of preparation.
- Prepare with the knowledge that you are doing the right and reasonable thing just by preparation!
 Some may suggest that the more prepping you are for a particular scenario, the better off you will be.
- The procedures you follow to get ready (particularly at the beginning) shouldn't be too difficult or time-consuming. There will always be more advanced techniques or abilities you'll need, but getting started is easiest if you focus on the fundamentals. In this manner, you won't have to worry about being too overwhelmed, burnt out, or failing to understand the fundamentals.
- The reality of trying to survive a natural catastrophe won't be a picnic. On the other hand, there's no reason why being ready for it can't be. Most of these capabilities will likely never be used (at least, we can only hope), but that's all the more reason to utilize your time in preparation to hone your abilities in this area! Prepping may teach you invaluable skills that will serve you well in any situation.

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CHAPTER 20 HOW TO PREVENT THE MOST FREQUENT PLANNING ERRORS

F ear of failing or making errors is a significant deterrent to starting anything new. There is a myriad of ways that preparations might go wrong. Some of them will be minor, while others may be deadly. Inexperienced and seasoned preppers often make the blunders we list here.

Since preparation is a way of life that encompasses so much, errors will inevitably be made. The time, money, and aggravation you save by not making these errors will be well worth it.

Common misunderstandings of the Prepper lifestyle's foundational principles will address here. For this reason, it is essential to do an extensive study on Prepping.

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CHAPTER 21 LOSS OF VITAL RECORDS

You will need several of these papers if you have to leave your home and find shelter elsewhere. Passports, insurance policies, essential family pictures, and wills are just a few examples of documents that should have several copies and electronic backups. It is also crucial that these records be kept in a safe and secure environment.

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CHAPTER 22 LACK OF MONEY OR GOODS TO TRADE

C arrying cash is unnecessary in this day and age. Because of cards and other cashless payment options, fewer people are making cash withdrawals these days.

However, in times of crisis, even something as valuable as a credit card is reduced to a useless piece of plastic. It would help if you always had some cash on hand in an emergency, so stock up and keep it in a secure location at home.

Eventually, people could stop even considering paper cash to be an option. You should always be ready to trade with other people, so have some extra goods about your farm just in case. Selecting low-priced luxury products (such as soap, bleach, or toilet paper) is the wisest course of action here.

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CHAPTER 23 AN INABILITY TO ASSESS MATERIAL REQUIREMENTS

I f you don't account for how much food or toilet paper your family uses regularly, you might run out of both very soon. Avoid being sloppy or careless with these estimates since running out of necessities like food or medication may have disastrous consequences.

Many individuals use the suggested serving suggestions printed on food packaging to help them budget for and organize their weekly food purchases. The problem is that they don't always work out (because most people end up eating more than one serving) or don't provide you with enough of what you need (in terms of calories or nutrients).

If you want to feed your family well, it's better to purchase food, cook it up, and give it to them than to buy it, believe the serving size, and then store it. It will provide a far more accurate estimate of how long that product will last in your household.

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CHAPTER 24 HAVING A LACK OF AWARENESS OF THE AVAILABLE AREA

I t is easy to overlook available space while organizing your pantry. I all, it seems to reason that more is better in most cases, right? But it may become a significant problem if there is nowhere to put it.

Things like water storage systems need this kind of careful planning because of their large footprint.

When living in a small area, it's wise to use the walls by installing shelves or hooks. You may also acquire a little step ladder and mount some upper brackets so you can reach the stuff if it ever becomes too high.

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CHAPTER 25 **NEGLECTING THE ESSENTIALS**

P reparedness efforts often focus on securing enough food, water, and weapons supplies. However, other goods, such as soap, toilet paper, and cleaning materials, will be essential in an emergency. Don't overlook the "survival" basics in favor of the luxuries that make life bearable.

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CHAPTER 26 OVERUSING YOUR RESOURCES

Preppers put in a lot of time and effort to ensure they have all the supplies they need in their homes and stores in the event of a disaster.

But let's say you've got a hankering for ramen before that occurs, and you have some in your cupboard now. Maybe you're too lazy to get out and buy more toilet paper, so you're using what you have instead.

Extremely difficult as it may be to refrain from eating into our resources now, we must do so in the future. You will probably be sorry for it when a crisis arises.

Supplies should be kept in a location that is not shared with other household things. You don't have to limit yourself to the confines of your pantry when storing dry goods; consider a spare closet or the space beneath your bed. Keep note of where you put things, however.

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CHAPTER 27 STORAGE CAPACITY ISSUES



 \mathbf{Y} ou need a well-organized and well-described storage system in your household. While stocking your pantry, there are several factors to consider, including the ideal conditions for storing certain products, the most suitable containers, and the impending expiration dates of various goods.

Many people just getting started with prepping may purchase a few one-gallon jugs and put them in storage as a backup water source. The problem is that these water containers tend to break quickly. If they fail, you're in the wrong position. If this occurs, it's prudent to plan for a few backup water sources.

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CHAPTER 28 FAILURE TO TAKE INVENTORY

Take it from someone who has worked in a hardware store or a cafe: taking inventory is the most hated part of the job. Putting forth the effort is tedious and timeconsuming. It's unfortunate but necessary to keep your food storage well stocked.

In addition to keeping track of what's getting low, it's important to avoid using anything beyond its expiration date.

It's wise to rotate the tasks that need to be done around the house every week, and including inventory counts is one of the tasks that should be done every week.

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CHAPTER 29 OVER-RELIANCE ON FIREARMS

I t's common for Preppers to believe that arming themselves with as many guns as possible is the best way to ensure their safety. To keep your loved ones and valuables safe, you should be well-versed in using various tactical weaponry and many lines of defense. In the event of a fire, if your ammunition is destroyed, stolen, or you run out, your firearms will be useless. Have a backup plan for your defense ready at all times.

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CHAPTER 30 HAVING AN ARROGANT ATTITUDE WHILE DEFENDING

W hen you spend so much time preparing for a worstcase scenario like an assault, it's easy to convince yourself that you're invincible. We need to be practical; this could work if you're Rambo, but most preppers aren't. If you approach defense this way, you would surely perish trying to kill many intruders with only one weapon.

To mount a successful defense, one must have a level head and think strategically.

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CHAPTER 31 LACK OF PRIVACY PROTECTION

M any people who do emergency preparations worry about the safety of their loved ones, possessions, or food, but they often forget to safeguard their data. Identity theft is a concern at any time, even during times of crisis.

If you're still online, check that the safety of your connection is not compromised. Important mail and papers should be shredded immediately (or burn them). Credit cards provide an extra layer of security against identity theft compared to debit cards.

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CHAPTER 32 NOT LEARNING A MARTIAL ART

A lthough martial arts training may seem unnecessary for a Prepper, understanding some Jiu-Jitsu, Karate, or Krav Maga might come in handy if you ever find yourself in a scenario where you need to defend yourself but don't have any weapons or materials with which to do so.

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CHAPTER 33 INSUFFICIENT SELECTION OF FOODS

B ulk rice is an excellent commodity for stockpiling. It can be made quickly and stored for a long time without breaking the bank. The item is a perfect addition to your storage space. However, you'll rapidly develop a solid aversion to rice if you consume it more than six times weekly. If you didn't consider a wide variety of foods while stocking your Prepper pantry, you could be out of luck.

Eat a wide variety of foods, not only meat and potatoes. Keep a wide selection of cereals, freeze-dried meals, and canned goods on hand. It will prevent you from going crazy from eating the same thing for four months and also help you get the nutrients you need.

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CHAPTER 34 STORING FOOD, YOU DON'T USUALLY EAT

O nly store items in your pantry that your family would typically eat in case of a calamity. The importance of this cannot be overstated if you have picky eaters in the family. They won't accept the justification that "it's all we have to eat." Save items that have ingredients or tastes that your loved ones already adore.



Another related idea is to try out different survival foods before committing to a significant purchase. These purchases are an investment, so if you're worried about wasting money on something your family won't like, it's best to test a sample or a single serving first. Feeding your family on a camping trip is an excellent opportunity to gather their feedback on the meals.

Many of us automatically think of ramen noodles and other instant noodles when we need a food source with a lengthy shelf life. These are excellent and tasty, but they don't provide much in the way of nutrients. You and your loved ones must obtain the recommended daily allowances of vitamins, minerals, fiber, and other critical nutrients. Keep them in mind while you stock your pantry and plan your meals.

In a similar vein, you might think about stocking your cupboard with bottles of vitamins to help your family remain healthy and prevent common ailments.

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CHAPTER 35 LACK OF FOOD ROTATION

T o emphasize the importance of this concept, we will go over it again after briefly touching on it in the "Storage Mistakes" section. Without proper inventory management and rotation, perishable foods may quickly spoil. Use the oldest food items first. Keeping an up-to-date inventory list and marking food with expiration dates or opening dates can make this process much smoother.

Also, while planning your weekly meals, keep perishable foods in mind; an emergency is not the time to throw away food.

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CHAPTER 36 FORGETTING ABOUT EMERGENCY FOOD SUPPLIES

T o emphasize the importance of this concept, we will go over it again after briefly touching on it in the "Storage Mistakes" section. Without proper inventory management and rotation, perishable foods may quickly spoil. Use the oldest food items first. Keeping an up-to-date inventory list and marking food with expiration dates or opening dates can make this process much smoother.

Also, while planning your weekly meals, keep perishable foods in mind; an emergency is not the time to throw away food.

Spices and condiments are your saviors when you're forced to eat the same thing over and over because your food supply is short or when you have to offer something to the family that nobody really likes.

Even if you're cooking the same recipes over and over, switching up the spices you use may impact the flavor. Remember that spices and condiments have expiration dates and must be tracked once they have been opened.

While it's true that many foods may be eaten raw, many need some heat treatment before being ingested (or will taste a lot better heated). Fuel for cooking may be used to generate heat. There are a wide variety of homemade substitutes for traditional fuels. Charcoal, propane tanks, and denatured alcohol are all excellent storage options.

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CHAPTER 37 PUTTING ASIDE FOOD RESUPPLY

T o sustain themselves for as long as possible, many survivalists fill their pantries with food and supplies. However, sooner or later, all of this food will be gone. It is crucial to have a strategy in place for restocking your supplies. At times like these, the ability to fend for oneself by means such as hunting, fishing, and gardening might be invaluable.

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CHAPTER 38 OVER-DEPENDENCE ON TOOLS

A aving the right supplies and storing enough food for an extended period is crucial to maintaining a high quality of life as a Prepper in a crisis. But do you mainly think about these things? It's essential to have a thorough understanding of the gear, including how to use it, which pieces are ideal for specific tasks, which can be modified to work in unusual environments, and which may be used as replacements in the event of damage.

Possessing this much information is very useful. As we've already said, you can't simply stock up and hide it in the pantry until you need it. Acquire the skill to use it. It's essential to get some experience with your tools.

To ensure you can use your equipment effectively in an emergency, it is a good idea to practice with it in hypothetical situations before you need it. Nothing is more frustrating than being in a potentially life-threatening condition and unable to utilize a device you just purchased due to confusion about how it operates. Product testing is essential since defective goods often must be discarded and replaced. Consider purchasing a high-priced water filter only to discover its ineffectiveness during a crisis. It will be more challenging to return items in the middle of a problem than it would have been to do so in advance.

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CHAPTER 39 CONSUMING AN EXCESS OF LOW-QUALITY GOODS

Being prepared might save you money, but it can become an expensive way of life if you're not cautious. The cost builds up quickly because of the need to store many supplies. A tiny initial expenditure may be avoided if you follow these guidelines. Spending a little extra is a wise decision regarding some pieces of machinery.

Spending too little money on specific tools might lead to subpar results or even broken tools after a few usages. You'll either have to pay extra money to replace the item or acquire other means to fill in the gaps.

You should consider paying more when purchasing the goods that secure your essential survival (food, shelter, water, and safety). It is particularly critical for vital things like water containers or bug-out bags. It would help if you also read product reviews to ensure you're getting the best.

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CHAPTER 40 A LACK OF AWARENESS OF CURRENT EVENTS, BOTH DOMESTIC AND ABROAD

A lways remember that news obsession is unhealthy. Still, you should keep a close eye on it to observe what's happening, mainly if it involves developments that portend a scenario for which your preparedness might be helpful (e.g., rumors of political unrest or war in your country). Don't ignore the national and international news for a moment, but don't limit yourself to local coverage.

Understanding the nature of the event you're preparing for might give you a leg up on your preparations, which is why being educated is often recommended as a defense.

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CHAPTER 41 FACT CHECK

T his is an essential fact to remember as accurately as it was then. To put it simply, you should take everything with a grain of salt. It's not hard to find misinformation or false reports online. Some of the data you see may be inaccurate, but it might also be outdated.

To that end, always verify information found online (especially on social media) before acting on it. Learn to question what you read and not take things at face value.

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CHAPTER 42 INNOCENCE

P reparedness is a serious subject, but for others, it's also an opportunity to have fun by exploring new interests and getting closer to nature. It is not a place for childish games. It's preferable to be wary and aloof rather than ignorant if you ever have to utilize your preparing skills and farm.

If you want to assist others and see the best in others, that's great, but you can't allow your naivete to get in the way of your responsibility to safeguard the safety of your loved ones and your possessions. Get your defenses in order. You should always suspect visitors, even if they seem to have excellent intentions. Never underestimate how far even the most honorable individuals will go to protect their own.

CHAPTER 43 **NARROW-MINDEDNESS**

K eeping an open mind is an essential quality in a Prepper, and we cover it in more detail below. However, this is connected to your overall attitude and concentration when preparing. We can't stress enough how important it is to not give all your attention to any one thing (just your food or your gun ammo). Keep an open mind so you can consider all that must be considered. While it's true that specific concerns are more pressing than others, a holistic approach is required.

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CHAPTER 44 SELF-SATISFIED

A s a result of preparation, you must continuously think about potential changes in your routine. Sadly, it's easy for people to get desensitized to disasters like this because of how common they are. The more you plan, the more accessible everything will go. While getting into a routine, so you're not caught off guard when trouble arises, it's necessary to stay on the ball and act quickly. There should be no room for complacency since this might lead to readily preventable errors or omissions (such as failing to rotate your food supplies).

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CHAPTER 45 CAPTIVATING

repping is a pastime for a lot of people. Though it's a weighty subject and way of life with many important factors to consider, it's also thrilling and a fantastic opportunity. That said, don't educational allow the preparation to take over your life. You may withdraw from others if you let your practices consume too much of your time or thoughts. Due to the high cost of maintaining such a way of life, it's also not hard to fall on bad times financially. Like with any new hobby, it's best to ease into it cautiously and steadily increase the time you devote to practice or study in the beginning. Your loved ones and your financial account will be eternally grateful to you.

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CHAPTER 46 NOT BEING REALISTIC

I t's easy to lose sight of reality while making emergency plans. In the big picture, you plot out where you'll travel and what you'll do. However, it's essential to take a straightforward approach to any strategy.

It's time to rethink the strategy if the goal isn't met shortly. For instance, it wouldn't be practical to prepare for a nuclear catastrophe by moving to a bunker hundreds of miles away from your home. You and your loved ones will get thirty minutes' notice before a nuclear attack is announced. Unfortunately, it won't work here. Consider more viable options, and always question the viability and constraints of each part of your approach.

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CHAPTER 47 NAIVETY

S urvival is a serious subject, but for others, prepping is a means to have fun by exploring new interests and getting closer to nature. None of us likes to engage in childish antics. Being wary and unapproachable is preferable to being foolish if you must utilize your preparation skills and homestead.

Get your defenses in order. Even if they seem to have excellent intentions, you should question everyone who comes to your door. Remember that even the most honorable individuals will take extreme measures to protect themselves. If you're the kind that constantly looks for ways to assist others and sees the best in people, that's great, but you can't allow your naivete to get in the form of taking care of your loved ones and safeguarding your possessions.

CHAPTER 48 **NEGLECTING EXERCISE**

M aintaining or aspiring to a life of prepping requires a healthy body and mind. You should have the physical stamina to walk long distances, scale vertical surfaces, swim, and do other outdoor activities. You never know when being skilled in these areas can come in handy.

While joining a gym is an excellent method to maintain your health, many more options are available at no cost. Simple things like going on a stroll, looking for work, and exercising (walking, pushing up, leaping, or even using a tree branch to do pull-ups) are great ways to get in shape. These may be done without the need for any special tools.

Your physical well-being is essential, but so is that of your loved ones, so don't neglect either. And therefore, it's an excellent time to go on a trek with the family.

CHAPTER 49 IGNORING PHYSICAL LIMITS

I t shouldn't be surprising that fitness plays a significant role in the preparing lifestyle; after all, fitness should play a substantial role in any lifestyle. In any situation, your health should be your first concern. Yet, tragically, it is common practice for prepper types to skip beyond this stage. In their haste to amass supplies and fine-tune their strategies, we've already established that many preppers neglect to improve their knowledge, abilities, and physical health. Make sure this isn't your identity!

When preparing for a move that involves the outdoors or any relocation, you'll need to keep a few things in mind. Imagine one of your homesteaders is old, has a chronic disease, or is physically impaired. That will make it harder for them to go very far. For that reason, this must be taken into consideration. It would be pointless to organize a multi-day climb up a mountain if even one family member couldn't make it.

CHAPTER 50 NOT PAYING ATTENTION TO DOING THINGS IN FREE TIME

You may be spending a considerable amount of time tending to your property. Bored people tend to be argumentative and difficult.

When making long-term preparations, it's essential to think of things the whole family can do together right at home, such as games, workout routines, or functional household tasks.

It is particularly crucial if you have young children or teens on your farm since they will drive you crazy if they have nothing to do. By keeping everyone's hands and minds occupied, morale may be kept high, and a positive outlook can maintain even in the face of adversity.

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CHAPTER 51 SIMPLE KIT PURCHASE

A survival pack bought online and stashed away in case of a disaster is no guarantee against dying. Simply purchasing the necessary tools is insufficient. The right equipment is useless if you don't know how to use it properly. You may have the most expensive and wellstocked survival gear in the world, but if you don't know how to utilize it, it will be about as helpful as a stick in an emergency.

Instead of merely buying a kit, you should take the time to learn how to utilize it.

Although securing your property and stockpiling supplies are essential components in prepping, there are many other aspects to consider. Your thinking and abilities will be just as crucial in a crisis as your supplies.

CHAPTER 52 ULTIMATELY PUTTING YOUR TRUST IN THE TOOLKIT

D on't think you can depend only on equipment to get you out of a jam. The machinery may fail, the food can run out, and the plants can wither and die. Gathering all the necessary supplies and storing your pantry is excellent, but you'll also need the know-how and ingenuity to face and conquer any possible obstacles. In many emergencies, things will happen that you didn't expect and weren't ready for. You'll need to depend on your knowledge and creativity in certain situations.



CHAPTER 53 CONSIDERING ONLY ONE CATASTROPHE

P reppers and survivalists typically conjure images of the characters from The Walking Dead. Many survivalists understandably confine their efforts to preparing for such "End Times." While it's possible, there are other, more probable outcomes for which you should also be ready (e.g., wildfires or hurricanes).



Don't fret about anything except the possibility of nuclear war or the rise of the undead.

CHAPTER 54 IGNORING YOUR FAMILY

G athering and purifying rainwater, fortifying one's home, and humanely slaughtering cattle are all worthy endeavors, but what about the people you've spent so much time studying and researching?

Everyone in the household has to be prepared to help out in need by knowing the essentials.

It is crucial if you ever become unwell and can't help out around the house or if your loved ones suddenly need to carry on with farm duties without you. Everyone must understand their roles.

Although it may not be the most incredible option for your children's mental health, teaching them basic survival skills (such as how to construct a campfire or pitch a temporary tent) is a terrific way to get the entire family engaged and make the situation seem a little less terrifying for the kids.

Who knows who in your family may end up requiring first aid knowledge and abilities? That is why teaching everyone in your household these skills is essential.

CHAPTER 55 LACK OF A DISASTER-PREVENTION REFERENCE COLLECTION

 $\label{eq:alpha} ^{II}A_{internet\ is\ a\ wealth\ of\ information;\ if\ I\ need\ to\ know\ how\ to\ accomplish\ anything,\ I\ can\ just\ google\ it."$

Failure to stock at least a few survival manuals on the farm is a serious omission. While a wealth of information is accessible online, it's improbable that infrastructure like the internet or power will survive a prolonged calamity.

Though it may seem intuitive, many preppers fail to account for this. We live in the information age when a wealth of data is at our fingertips. In an emergency, we will need to depend on tried and true methods of communication, such as writing things down in ink on paper.

CHAPTER 56 PUTTING OFF EASE BY IGNORING IT

P reppers often plan and prepare, carefully considering the tools and knowledge they need to stay alive in a disaster. Many of them will adopt a military strategy of practice, which is more akin to survivalists (refer to chapter 2 for more information about the difference between survivalism and prepping). While this is excellent for reducing risk, it will rapidly become tedious and tense at home.

The emotional toll that disasters take often goes overlooked while being one of the trickiest aspects of any catastrophe scenario to plan for and respond to.

Make sure you stock your pantry with some morale boosters; they'll be ready when you are.

If there are kids in the house, they are crucial. Hanging birthday decorations, photographs of the family, the family's favorite treat (such as a few trays of Coca-Cola or a few bags of sweets), a bar of soap or some scented candles, and a gift card to a local store are all good options. It's also a good idea to keep some objects that may use for enjoyment, such as comic novels, board games, or craft sets.

CHAPTER 57 IGNORING GARBAGE COLLECTION

O f course, it's depressing to dwell on such a sad subject. However, it would help if you had a wellthought-out plan to eliminate the garbage if water and waste collection infrastructure are disrupted (including your bodily waste too).

It is crucial because garbage may rapidly accumulate in a house, providing a perfect environment for the growth of germs and the transmission of illness.

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CHAPTER 58 HAVING A NOTICEABLE PREPPER ATTITUDE

S omeone who constantly brags about being a Prepper or about the Prepper way of life is known as a "loudmouthed Prepper." The information you seek is covered in more depth in volume 1, so please read on there.

People naturally want to speak about preparations, discuss their hobbies, and seek out others who share those interests; nevertheless, it's essential to exercise caution while doing so.

Many people will remember your "interest" and flock to your home seeking aid when a tragedy occurs (or, in the worst-case scenario, things to take from you or overtake your homestead). When calamity comes, don't discount the actions of specific individuals. Even a neighbor you trust might harm you to protect their loved ones.

You should also know that the term "prepping" has a negative connotation in certain circles. Your thoughts might attract more attention than is warranted if you share them.

CHAPTER 59 ACTIVITIES THAT PREPPERS MAY USE AND ENJOY DOING TO IMPROVE THEIR SKILLS

P repping isn't only about securing food and water; a wide variety of skills come in handy in rural areas.

Given enough time and practice, most people may learn valuable skills, including carpentry, cooking over a wood fire, hunting for food, leatherworking, fishing for sustenance, maintaining tools, gardening, foraging, and applying herbal treatments.

The ordinary person nowadays is too busy to take care of many household chores formerly done by hand. What we can do will astound us if we put up the effort and study the topic thoroughly.

As a prepper, I've found that the following abilities are essential:

- Leathercrafting
- Bladesmith
- Target practice and bow manufacturing
- Using a bow drill with a ferrocerium rod to create a fire

- use of flint knives and traps
- tanning a cloak
- Activities like fly fishing and tying flies
- Using bows and arrows to hunt big and large game
- Gardening
- Journaling
- Publishing articles on these activities in periodicals, ideally accompanied by photographs.

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PART FOUR Prepper Kitchen

Since it serves as the homestead's literal nerve center, the survivalist pantry is a topic of paramount significance. Food and other goods that will help you maintain a decent standard of living in the event of an emergency should take up most of the space in your pantry. In the same vein as the other aspects of being a good prepper, setting up and maintaining your pantry is not a simple undertaking. What to put in it, where to place it, and additional pantry-related topics will cover. This chapter has all you need to know if you want a fantastic pantry.

It would help if you stocked your prepper pantry with enough food and water to last you and your family for at least three to twelve months. In this manner, you can ensure that your family will be fed even if there is a disruption in the short-term food supply chain.

It's challenging to plan for the worst, but it's not impossible. Here is a rundown of the top prepper pantries and advice on how to store your own. We'll show you the best ways to save water and put away food in an emergency.

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CHAPTER 60 WHY AND HOW TO STOCK A SURVIVAL FOOD SUPPLY

D urability- The most compelling argument in favor of stocking a survivalist pantry is the potential for saving one's own and one's family's life in the case of a disaster.

Food security- You may be sure you and your loved ones won't go hungry if you lose your work. Having a wellstocked pantry also allows you to avoid food shortages and the resulting stress at the supermarket.

Satisfaction- Keeping a well-stocked survivalist pantry may reduce the number of times you have to go shopping. A well-stocked pantry allows you to purchase from what you already have on hand, rather than being forced to make a last-minute trip to the store because you're out of something you regularly use.

Helping others- To extend the shelf life of perishable items, donating them to organizations that provide meals to the hungry is a great idea. If you put up a survivalist pantry while things are reasonable, you won't have to scavenge for goods when bad times hit. If you know someone going through a bad patch, consider sharing with them.

Comfort- Everyone knows the value of being prepared for the unexpected by purchasing their vehicle, house, and health insurance. But what about food security and access to safe drinking water? After all, maintaining your health and having access to clean water are essential for life.

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CHAPTER 61 TO WHAT EXTENT DO I REQUIRE FOOD?

t all comes down to how many people to feed and how much food you want to keep in storage at any moment.

I think a three-month supply is a good starting point. However, we also try indoor gardening, have our flock of hens and turkeys, and enjoy outdoor activities such as fishing, hunting, and foraging. Thus, we may be better ready for any food shortages in the future.

Think about what you want to get out of your homestead garden and what you plan to grow. Do you, for instance, have an overflow of tomatoes, zucchini, pumpkins, or squash? If this is the case, you should start pickling, learn to preserve tomatoes, and experiment with new methods to prepare squash.

CHAPTER 62 ESSENTIALS FOR STOCKING THE PANTRY

et's get down to business and list the best foods to have on hand in your cupboard. You may add anything you might have forgotten to your existing list from the list of food that stores well that we will supply. In addition, we will present a list of foods that do not keep well and are not advised for storage.

Rice- Since you can store it for up to 10 years, white rice is a viable option for a survivalist's food supply. You should include a few bay leaves in your container if you plan to keep your rice in a single big bucket to keep pests away.

Spices- Spices sold in large quantities are often packaged in individual plastic bags. These spice packets can last for a few years if stored in a big, airtight plastic container. Spices don't go wrong, although they lose flavor after a while.

Pasta- For convenient long-term storage, a big plastic container is ideal; some varieties of pasta already come wrapped in individual servings. On the other hand, you can keep dry pasta for a year or more if you put it in a food-safe bucket with a gamma-safe top and some bay leaves.

Water- There is something that just cannot be ignored. There should be a reliable system in place for storing water, but it also wouldn't harm to have a supply of bottled water on hand in case of an emergency.

You may also try: oats, instant potatoes, tomato sauce, beef bouillon cubes, and spaghetti (if not using canning)

Cereal Soup Bases, Yeast, sugar, baking powder/soda, yeast, and other baking necessities

Items such as dried herbs and spices, salt, pancake/biscuit mix, condiments, honey/syrup, dried fruit, peanut butter, jelly, and jam

Now that you have a good idea of what to keep in your stockpile in the event of a disaster, it's time to check out some foods you shouldn't.

CHAPTER 63 NON-FOOD ITEMS YOU NEED TO STORE

T here are a few non-edible items that you should have on hand. Blankets and tarps are two examples that have previously been brought up. Think about things your family regularly needs rather than wanting or wishing for first when considering what to add to this list. It's essential to make sure you have the fundamentals covered before worrying about comforts.

Browse the following for some ideas of non-food things that may be useful to have on hand:

- Food Preparation Equipment/Crock Pot
- Kitchen Utensils Paper Towels Extra Food Storage
 Bags and Containers
- Garbage bags
- Items needed to prepare meals include: a handcranked can opener; plastic wrap and aluminum foil; washcloths and scrubbers;
- Soap and sanitizer for washing hands
- Gather essential papers in one place in case of an emergency: insurance documents, passports, identification cards, wills, pictures, and more.

- Baby supplies include diapers, wipes, oil, ointment for diaper rash, and so on.
- Sheets, pillows, comforters, blankets, etc.
- Fuel for a stove or oven that doesn't use electricity (such as a solar oven or a wood cookstove)
- Products for the care of pets, such as food, treats, medication, etc.
- Bleach and multi-purpose cleaners.
- Deodorant, shampoo, wash, toothpaste/brushes, razors, tampons/towels (+ any personal hygiene stuff you use)
- Pain relievers, antihistamines, cough syrup, heartburn pills, etc., are all examples of OTC medications.
- Vitamins; first-aid materials (bandages, plasters, alcohol wipes, cleaning cream, etc.); candles, flashlights (with batteries), lanterns, etc.
- Battery- and solar-powered radio
- Emergency cash reserve

The list may not cover all of the items that your family may need. It's a good idea to develop a list of essential items that your family tends to use over a month and add things you believe could be helpful in particular emergency circumstances, just as we suggested when deciding on the food aspect of this preparation. For example, if you live in a region that often has power outages throughout the winter, you should stock up on blankets, warm clothes, and other forms of alternate heating. To stock your pantry with enough food to last you through the month, you'll need to put in some time and thought.

To round off our guide to stocking a survival pantry, we thought it would be helpful to highlight a few multifunctional goods that every survivalist should have on hand. As their name implies, versatile objects serve several purposes, making them essential. Having them on hand will be helpful in several situations, not to mention that they won't take up much room or cost you any money. Having things that can use for several purposes reduces the need to purchase specialized, niche tools.

There is a plethora of useful multifunctional things that may be great additions to your stockpile. Several of the advantages and applications will be discussed below.

Baking Soda-



You should always have some baking soda on hand since it's a valuable item that's also inexpensive and simple to obtain. Once the powder has been opened, it should be stored in an airtight container. Baking with it and using it as a terrific cleaning agent are just two of its many applications. Read on for some further examples of how it might be put to use:

Baking soda may use for a variety of purposes as a mouthwash substitute adding a small quantity to warm water; masking unpleasant odors by placing it in the offending area (this also includes your underarms as a makeshift deodorant)

It's a more natural option than air fresheners since it absorbs scents so well (mix the baking soda with a few drops of scented essential oil to make your environment smell a bit nicer)

Spreading a little baking soda at the bottom of your trash can help decrease odor. Mixing it with lemon juice and a little water creates a superb cleaning solution, great for cleaning the most intractable situations or unclogging drains.

Soaking a bath with a few cups of baking soda will help soothe sunburned or irritated skin and reduce itching. (You may also apply baking soda and water paste to the afflicted skin; this is useful for pinpointing problem areas.) sprinkle baking soda on weeds to help kill them (but be careful not to get any on or near your plants, as it will kill them too!); Put out some flames (oil and grease fires) by pouring baking soda on them; Use baking soda to help put out sure fires (oil and grease fires).

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CHAPTER 64 DUCT TAPE



P reppers with even a fraction of foreknowledge would expect to see duct tape on this list. It's one of the handiest things to have around for various reasons. Duct tape can use for just about everything if you have enough of it and know how to use it properly. Some potential applications include:

Fixing cracked panes of glass

You may use splinters for various things, such as:

- Fixing a broken pole.
- Repairing a vehicle.
- Marking a path.
- Putting an arm in a sling.
- Patching holes in clothing or gear.

If you apply your ingenuity and a little creativity, duct tape is the super solution to any issue involving harm. Keep some rolls in your pantry, and put a couple in your bug-out bags.

Coffee filters- Because of their construction, design, and texture, coffee filters are ideal for brewing delicious coffee, but they have numerous other applications. They have a wide range of uses, including but not limited to:

Removal of suspended particles from untreated water, Putting your glasses through a cleaning (with a bit of water), Emergency toilet paper (don't flush it!), A stand-in bandage

Rheological compression of excellent (if wetted and chilled)

They're inexpensive, convenient, and can be purchased in large quantities from stores or online.



Honey- Incredibly beneficial honey is one of the best ingredients around. Many people find it useful because of its ability to kill germs and fungi. It is also widely regarded as a rich source of numerous nutrients and forms the basis of many skincare products and salves.

Some benefits are:

- By providing your body with these vital antioxidants, honey may aid in the prevention of serious health problems like heart disease and type 2 diabetes if consumed regularly.
- Honey is a natural sweetener that may enhance the flavor of foods or beverages if required (and is a somewhat healthier alternative than refined sugar for health-conscious people).
- Honey is a natural antiseptic, anti-inflammatory, and healing remedy for cuts, scrapes, and other skin injuries.
- Honey is a natural sweetener that may be added to meals or tea/coffee to improve the flavor (and, for those who are health-conscious, it is somewhat better for you than refined sugar).
- Honey is fantastic for relieving the discomfort of insect bites or (ironically) bee stings, and eating it may help calm the throat when you have a sore one or tickly cough.

Even while the costly "organic" varieties of honey (such as "Manuka Honey," often regarded as the holy grail of honey varieties) have more significant nutritional advantages than regular "store-bought" honey, they also tend to be more expensive. Thus, the things at the bottom of your cabinet drawers will suffice in most instances. Stock your cupboard with a couple of bottles to enjoy the above advantages. **Zip ties-** It's hard to overstate the usefulness of zip ties, often known as cable ties. More than the apparent benefits of having them stashed away in your pantry (and in your bug-out bag), there are a few other reasons you should always have a good supply on hand.

Zip ties are a great answer if you have supplies that won't fit in your bug-out bag but still need rapid access in an emergency.

Buckles, zippers, backpack straps, and so on may all benefit from them as a rapid remedy in case of malfunction. Just thread the zip tie through the openings to reattach the severed pieces. In a pinch, you may thread zip ties through the eyelets on your boots or shoes to serve as makeshift shoelaces.

To prevent insect bites, zip tie the bottom of your pants around your ankles.

Bandages may be held in place using zip ties in the event of an injury. If you need to apply pressure to a wound to stop bleeding while on the road, a zip tie may help hold the bandage in place and prevent it from rolling about (DO NOT close the association too tightly as this can stop circulation)

Wrapping anything in zip ties is a terrific method to save space in your bug-out bag, whether it's clothing, blankets, or anything else; securing zip ties to trees is a great way to indicate a trail; for visibility, it's best to use colorful zip ties.

With their many practical applications for nomadic people, zip ties are a must-have in every prepper's pantry, particularly in a bug-out bag. A tiny knife or cable tie cutter should be kept on hand to quickly and easily remove them. **Salt-** Roman soldiers frequently got salt instead of a monthly wage because of its high value. It works well as a flavor enhancer but has numerous practical applications.

The benefits of salt are

- For one, it aids in preserving food (particularly meat!)
- Salting ice may speed up the melting process.
- A salt bath will help eliminate infection and minimize swelling if you have any cuts or scrapes.
- To keep ants away, just set it on the ground.
- To speed up the drying process, put a spoonful of this inside your damp shoes.
- It makes an excellent stain remover when combined with alcohol (1-part salt to 4 parts alcohol).
- You may reduce the bitterness of your coffee by adding a little.
- You may use it to create a temporary toothpaste by mixing it with baking soda.
- Including a small amount may extend the milk's shelf life.

Bleach- Because it is effective against many different types of bacteria, viruses, fungus, and other microorganisms that might cause illness, bleach is a valuable product to have about the house. A liquid will destroy everything you throw it at; all it takes is one-part bleach to ten parts water. Just a few drops of bleach will do the trick. A small supply of only a few bottles may survive for quite some time in storage. Bleach is a valuable item to have on hand to keep your family healthy when a crisis has struck since it can use to disinfect surfaces and water.

- An excellent spray cleaner for disinfecting surfaces is mixing bleach with hot water (1 part bleach to 9 parts bleach) and placing the mixture into a spray bottle.
- Small things, such as medical equipment and gardening tools, may be sterilized using a solution by mixing 1 gallon of hot water with 3/4 cup of bleach. Place the objects in the solution and let them soak for 5-10 minutes before letting them dry on a clean surface.
- If you want to sterilize the water you've gathered, you may do so by adding a few drops of bleach. Use two drops of bleach for every quart of water, or eight drops per gallon, as a general guideline. Let it sit for 45 minutes before eating to maximize the bleach's disinfecting effects. (If you're using water that you've gathered from a pond or rainfall, for example, you should filter it using something like a coffee filter or an old t-shirt to remove debris before adding the bleach.) Bleach-treated water probably won't have a fantastic aroma or flavor, but it may be helpful in a pinch.
- Bleach, in the eyes, is a sure way to stop an intruder if you need a fast and efficient self-defense approach to protect your house (though

this is only recommended as an absolute last resort)

- Your product may be sterilized in 30 seconds by immersing it in a solution of one gallon of water and one teaspoon of bleach (make sure to rinse your produce THOROUGHLY after doing this, before you eat them)
- You can use sand or dirt to fill an empty bleach bottle for a quick and easy makeshift weight when you need to secure a tarp or rope.

When using bleach, you need to know a few highly critical things.

Bleach loses its effectiveness after about a year, so use it sparingly and date it when you buy it; it has a short shelf life. About six months into its use, bleach begins to lose its effectiveness. Around 20% of its actual significance is lost after one year.

Bleach should not be stored in a chilly area (since this might hasten the bleach's deterioration), so keep it someplace warm or at room temperature if feasible.

The combined water and bleach solution has a one-day shelf life. Keep the powerful bleach on hand, and dilute it with water before using it. Making a solution with 20% bleach is advised if you want it to be effective for up to four days since this concentration ensures that the answer will not lose its disinfecting properties too quickly.

Bleach is another low-priced, readily available commodity we may utilize in various contexts. Bleach has a

one-year shelf life, so use it up quickly if you keep it in a warm environment.

Chalk-



I t's pretty easy to implement, and you shouldn't discount it just because of how easy it is! It's not as adaptable as the other items on this list since you can't use it to eat or clean wounds. Still, there are contexts in which it may be helpful. Look at the samples we've provided below.

You may use chalk to Leave messages in the wilderness; Mark trails and routes so you don't get lost (in an occasion where someone gets separated from the group, this could come in handy)

Insects and ants can be kept out by lining the entrance with chalk, and gel fuel (a fuel paste that doesn't spill like liquid fuel, making it safer) may be made by mixing chalk with white vinegar and isopropyl alcohol.

Use only calcium carbonate chalk before incorporating it into the mixture.

Eggshells- Eggshells are another unexpected material to cut. Despite their seeming insignificance compared to the egg inside, eggshells have advantages. In case you weren't aware, the typical American consumes around 250

eggs annually. Unless you're a vegan, you probably use eggs daily for breakfast, baking, and frying batter. After reading this, you'll want to have a supply of eggshells on hand (ensure you wash them and bake them at 350 degrees for 8 minutes first to dry them out).

Plants benefit from the mineral boost provided by crushed eggshells, and the soil stays looser as a result of the addition of eggshells (essential for the roots of many plants to grow well)

Try adding ground eggshells to the coffee before brewing for less bitter coffee. Ground eggshells are an excellent source of calcium and minerals for any birds or hens you may maintain.

If you're camping and need to clean your dishes, save an eggshell and fill it with soapy water to use as a rough scrubber. (If you don't want to be wounded, use gloves while handling this.)

Calcium and vitamins may be increased by grinding eggshells into a fine powder and adding a teaspoon to liquid-based dishes (like soup).

Plants may benefit from additional nutrients provided by soaking eggshells in water and then pouring the resulting solution over the soil.

Tarpaulin- Waterproof canvas or plastic sheeting is used to cover vulnerable surfaces.



- A tarp is perfect for keeping a person warm in an emergency when the temperature drops.
- If water is in short supply, you may set up tarp traps by tying the cloth between trees (ensure the tarp is sagging in the center so the rainfall doesn't run off).
- Put a tarp over the shattered window or repair the roof with duct tape.
- When the heating goes out, use a tarp to segregate portions of your farm to preserve the warmth in one spot; having a large open house when the heating goes out is not ideal.
- A tarp might serve as an excellent improvised shelter cover if you find yourself in a trapped situation.

A tarp is excellent material on hand because of its usefulness and the tiny space it takes. Therefore, numerous objects serve essential and even crucial functions. If you already have a pantry, it's a good idea to look at the contents and consider the countless ways you can use it.

Used tea bags-Any reader who enjoys tea will be thrilled to learn about the options below. Even while coffee

has its uses, dried tea bags provide a wide range of options for those in the prepping community seeking multifunctional products. Make sure to save the tea bag the next time you make a pot of tea, dry it out, and keep it in an airtight container for subsequent use.

- Soak used (black) tea bags in water for a few hours to cool off sunburned skin and then apply the resulting solution. (The catechins in black tea aid in the healing process of irritated skin.)
- Used teabags are the best fuel around. (First, make sure the tea bag has had enough time to dry.)
- To get rid of smells overnight, try putting some dried tea leaves in your shoes or other tiny areas.
- Bug bites and minor rashes may benefit from moist, cooled tea bags, which alleviate itching and decrease inflammation.
- Used tea bags may speed up the decomposition process in a compost pile, making them valuable to a prepper garden.

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CHAPTER 65 A GUIDE TO STOCKING YOUR SURVIVAL FOOD STORAGE CABINET

S everal factors should be considered while prepping. The only pantry that requires careful attention to detail and careful planning is your own.

You can't live a prepper's lifestyle without a well-stocked pantry, which isn't sufficient on its own but is a crucial cog in the machine. Your pantry should be stocked with the food and supplies you'll need to maintain your household for extended periods. But other priceless things should include here as well.

Here, we'll go over the non-food goods and handy multifunctional products that should round out your pantry, the essential foods that should make up the bulk of its contents, and some general tips on arranging it effectively.

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CHAPTER 66 START

M aking a list of all the food and drink products you and your family regularly consume over a month is a great start when considering what you should have in your food pantry. Put aside your aversion to numbers for the time being. Ignore everything else and look at the things themselves.

Once you have a complete list, read through it and put things in order of importance, crossing off anything that doesn't belong there or seems like a waste of time (sadly, that includes snacks that are nothing but pure sugar). Also, as you read over the list, keep in mind the expiration dates of any items and cross them off if necessary. If you want to keep perishables cool and safe during a power outage, you may keep them in your refrigerator. Preppers should begin constructing their preparing garden if they value access to fresh food.

After compiling a list of necessities, the next step is determining how many of each thing you need. If you want to have enough of everything for a month, how much of each item do you need, and how frequently should it be rotated or restocked? Possible expiry dates should also be considered at this stage.

It would help if you thought about what foods you need to stock up on since they serve more than one function when planning what to put in your pantry. Use salt as an example. As a condiment, salt is lovely, but it also has many other uses, like preventing spoilage of meat and milk, soothing a sore throat, and even destroying weeds. Keep in mind that you'll need to stock up on these versatile foods that may use for various purposes. See the list of potential multifunctional goods and their applications before this section for guidance in stocking your pantry.

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CHAPTER 67 HOW TO ORGANIZE

he difference between a great pantry and a terrible one sometimes comes down to how well it's arranged.

Create an inventory tracking system as your priority. Know precisely what you have in your pantry, how much of each item you have, and when it will expire. By tracking which goods have been utilized and which have not, you can ensure that nothing goes to waste in your stockroom.

Mylar bags, container bins, cans, and food-grade buckets should all be labeled with their contents to make stocktaking easy.

A meal plan is a great strategy to ensure you use all your food supplies. Get together as a family at the beginning of the week to go through the fridge and pantry contents, decide what has to be eaten, and then make a meal plan that incorporates the food that needs to be consumed. If you want to get your kids interested in and involved in the upkeep of the farm, this is a terrific method.

It would help if you took the same care with your pantry that a restaurant does; the best way to guarantee a highquality end product is to have a well-organized pantry that you use well. Many preppers share photographs of their pantries on Reddit or Facebook forums to seek recommendations or opinions on their pantry set-up if they are still unsure of how to begin or if they feel their present set-up is not the most efficient. You may follow suit, or you can browse through some other people's pictures for ideas.

A common practice among preppers is partitioning the pantry into sections according to the food and the quantities they want to store. Dry items, such as unopened pasta and rice, are a typical example, and many people keep them in a separate, tiny cupboard. Canned goods, such as condiments and sauces, are stored separately. Long-term food storage, such as 200 serves of freeze-dried meals, takes up another place in the pantry.

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CHAPTER 68 ADVICE FOR GETTING STARTED

et's begin with some broad suggestions for things to think about and how to go about creating your pantry. We'll start by discussing the three primary categories of Prepper food storage.

- The Working Pantry is only the name given to a pantry currently being utilized and refilled regularly.
- Because it is stocked and only meant to be utilized in times of crisis, the Short-Term or Long-Term Pantry is seldom visited. In a short-term disaster, a pantry may only be filled with a few months' worths of food and supplies, while a long-term pantry could have enough supplies to last five to ten years.
- In the event of a total economic collapse or another armed conflict, the things in the Bargaining Pantry are kept only to trade for other goods and resources. Items in stock may be used as money.

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CHAPTER 69

D ealing with pests, such as rodents, insects, or any combination, is an inevitable part of any food storage scenario. There has to be a quick review of the problem of pests first. Put mouse traps around the kitchen to catch any rodents sneaking in. Place a couple in the shelves' recesses or corners to get the desired effect (check these traps regularly to ensure you remove anything they may catch).

Food should also be double-wrapped as a precaution. To keep food fresh while it's being stored in a giant bin, seal it in a plastic bag or another box beforehand. Put an additional barrier between the product and the food-grade buckets before storage. If the insects manage to make their way inside, at least your food will be somehow protected.

Keep a check on your food storage containers, and if you see any signs of pest activity (such as chew marks or droppings), then you should put out extra traps (and replace the plastic container if there is a hole in it).

An intelligent way to keep insects away is to mix some bay leaves with your loose dry goods. Due to the absence of oxygen, bugs cannot hatch inside Mylar bags, making them an excellent alternative for preserving food without worrying about contamination.

Put the infected food in the freezer for three days if you discover a bug problem. The insects will eradicate if you follow these steps. Suppose you have access to reliable electricity and only cook in small amounts (for example, storing a year's worth of soup in the freezer is impractical). In that case, this may be a viable option. Even so, the bugs will be killed by the freezing temperatures. The food might even be stored outdoors for a few days if you live in a chilly climate.

It's far simpler to avoid an infestation of bugs or pests than to get rid of them after they've taken up residence in your pantry, so keep these things in mind as you set up shop.

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CHAPTER 70 FOODS THAT DON'T KEEP WELL IN THE PANTRY

- For a good reason, granola is included in every recipe for a nutritious morning meal. Despite its excellent taste, its high price and short shelf life make it a poor option for a long-term supply. As we discussed before, the general rule for food storage for preparation is to only store food that lasts longer than a year.
- Although brown rice's nutritional content is far better than its white equivalent, it can only be preserved for about six months. On the other hand, white rice has a shelf life of up to a decade.
- Because of their high oil and fat content, whole nuts only have a shelf life of around six months. Nut butter, instead of whole nuts, may be stored up to a year beyond the expiry date printed on the box.
- Like other cooking oils, Olive oil doesn't keep for very long. For instance, olive oil has a limited shelf life from six months to a year. But coconut oil has a far longer shelf life—two years. Consequently,

this is a viable choice if you need a large quantity of oil for long-term storage.

- Protein-rich dried meat like jerky could seem like a tremendous stockpiling item. It's not ideal since it's expensive to acquire and doesn't keep for very long (a year or two). If you enjoy it, put it away for later, but use it before it spoils! There are better alternatives to this if you're looking for protein.
- It's contention among cooks as to whether or not brown sugar keeps well. Brown sugar has a longer shelf life than white sugar but becomes hard over time, making it inconvenient to store. But brown sugar is great in many dishes, so we suggest keeping some on hand. Using white sugar to sweeten things is the most convenient option.
- The shelf life of most processed grains is just around six months. All-purpose flour has a somewhat longer shelf life than whole wheat flour, lasting anywhere from eight months to a year, while whole wheat flour only has a one to threemonth shelf life. If you're searching for an option to stock your cupboard with these perishable flours, consider producing your flour.

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CHAPTER 71 STORAGE TIPS

here are a few things worth buying if you want to stock up on food for the long haul.

The first kind is mylar bags. They are ideal for long-term storage of dehydrated items but may also be used to keep ready-to-eat meals fresh. Foods may be preserved for an extended period in Mylar bags because they are foil pouches that prevent oxygen and pests from getting to the contents inside. A properly sealed Mylar bag may keep dry goods fresh for up to 30 years, while a similar bag for wet goods would keep them fresh for up to 10 years.

Canning is a great way to preserve valuable storage space in your kitchen pantry while preserving various foods. Suitable for people who are thinking forward to the far future. Knowing how to protect food via canning is another skill that will come in handy, particularly for those who tend a Prepper garden. Canned goods have a wide variety of uses and applications. You have various foods at your disposal, including fruits, vegetables, legumes, and even meat. The book then discusses two distinct techniques for keeping food in jars. There's little question that the proper contents of your pantry will be your primary concern when you put it up. Although this is critical, thinking about food storage and organization logistics is even more essential. We'll go over several considerations to help you decide where in your home is ideal for putting your pantry.

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CHAPTER 72 CREATING A SECURE ENVIRONMENT

W hile there is no universally accepted answer to this question since it relies on many aspects, most people believe that a dry, temperature-controlled basement is ideal for a pantry.

If you don't have a basement or live in a small apartment, for example, your options for where to put the office will be more constrained than they otherwise would be.

Those pressed for space in the kitchen may benefit from obtaining a storage container to keep their extra food supplies. Storing items like extra ammo or toilet paper here is a good plan, but keeping your food supply there is not a good idea. Put your pantry in a convenient location. For example, suppose you've stored food in a barn a few miles from your home, but a significant snowfall prevents you from getting to it because of the road conditions. That means it should ideally take place on your land.

Initially, you'll want to ensure that your storage facility is climate-controlled. It would help if you didn't store perishables in a location subject to scorching and shallow temperatures (generally, attics and garages are not ideal). It would help if you also stayed away from areas that are too cold, too hot, or too damp. Wet places are no place for food storage, as you would imagine. A complex, dry area with many shelf units is excellent for a survivalist pantry. Because of the constant temperature and natural insulation the soil provides, a basement is an ideal location for such a facility.

While a basement is an excellent option, it's essential to consider the possibility of flooding in your area. Your basement supply cache is the part of your home most likely to be damaged by water seepage during a flood. If you live in a flood-prone area, you should probably keep your food storage in an upper-floor bedroom or on shelves higher than the floor of your basement.

It should be no surprise that food is heavy, and you'll need to store a lot of it. Make sure the storage facility can accommodate the weight with sturdy, easily maintained shelves.

It would be a catastrophe if you came home one day and found all your cherished canned foods broken on the floor.

It would help if you didn't overload your pantry shelves; therefore, check each shelf's weight capacity before making a purchase. Ensure you are accurate, so you don't waste time or money.

In the preceding section, we indicated that a standard error made by preppers is not dividing their supplies into short-term and long-term categories. If you have two shelves, it's best to keep long-term storage in one and temporary storage in the other (or just a few racks, as long as they are clearly labeled). Storage shelving is a godsend for those who are pressed for square footage. A strong pair of tall shelves can fit a lot of stuff into a bit of space.

There are alternative locations where you can store your pantry and other tools for prepping.

- You can put boxes of stuff beneath your bed if you don't already have something there. The bulk of your sugar, white rice, and spaghetti may fit beneath the bed, provided you have a reasonably standard mattress. The average can is not very tall, so this is an excellent spot to keep can trays (typically around 8 inches). Extra space may be created by purchasing bed risers, which raise the height of your bed frame to accommodate taller goods (even some container bins).
- 2. That depends on the sofa you have. A gap between the floor and the base for specific couches makes it an ideal spot to stash away canteen trays or other thinly stacked items.
- 3. Many of your household garment closets will be completely unused. Crates of pasta or canned items of many kinds would fit well here. In addition to being a great spot to keep your spare change or essential papers, this is also a very secure place to keep anything of value (insurance docs, your passports, photos, etc.).
- 4. Laundry rooms, as you would expect, include a lot of storage space, often in the form of cabinets and shelves. Your washer and dryer will create a space

above them where you may keep things like detergent and towels. You may also use this space to store medical equipment (up high, out of the reach of children). Ensure there is enough ventilation in the laundry room first, so no moisture is drawn into the clothes.

- 5. There is usually little storage space beneath the stairs in a home with more than one level. It's dry, dark, and convenient for everyone in the family to go to, making it an excellent spot to keep supplies. The addition of shelves to this box will also provide extra functional storage.
- 6. Having a water supply or a supply of canned goods stashed away in a weatherproof outdoor storage container is a great idea. Any food kept there should not be easily damaged by temperature changes, which is the only caution you need to use here. Extra blankets, tarps, heaters, water filters, etc., may be safely stored in these spaces since they are not perishable. Plastic containers are a great way to keep your bulky belongings dry and safe from the elements.
- 7. At the very least, there are always four enormous bags around the home that no one ever uses. Don't let them waste when you're not traveling; use them to stock up on necessities in an emergency.

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SUMMARY

I n general, one can never know too much about being prepared. You need not know all there is to know about prepping to be good at it. You'll be all set as long as you learn the core concepts of the survivalist lifestyle and the most common terms preppers use.

The many aspects and points of view on preparation as a lifestyle are covered here. Whatever your motivation for planning, as long as you're not putting yourself or others at risk, you're not doing any damage. If you're feeling a little overwhelmed by all that goes into preparation, come back to this section and use the list of skills we've assembled here as a guide to help you prioritize what you need to learn.

There are a wide variety of pitfalls, both great and minor, that Preppers might encounter. Addressing some of these errors will merely mean saving a little money or time, but fixing others might be the difference between life and death, as we said earlier. Make sure you're the most effective and productive Prepper you can be by reviewing this section at various points in your preparation journey to ensure you're taking the appropriate approach. When stocking up for an emergency, the most critical considerations are what belongs in your survivalist pantry, what shouldn't be kept there, and how you should arrange your supplies. Maintaining maximum efficiency and minimizing waste requires a level of organization that few people possess.

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