

Emergency Kit Checklist

All Americans should have some basic supplies on hand in order to survive for at least three days if a major emergency or disaster occurs. Below is a list of some basic items that every emergency supply kit should include. However, it is important that individuals review this list and consider where they live and the unique needs of their family in order to customize an emergency supply kit that will meet their special circumstances.

Individuals should also consider having several emergency supply kits, one full kit at home and smaller portable kits in their workplace, vehicle or other places where they spend time. Also prepare a household emergency plan for your family.

Prepare an emergency supply kit now before an emergency or disaster hits. You may wish to include:

1. Cell phone and car charger with a current listing of emergency contacts
2. Flashlight and extra batteries
3. First aid kit, and first aid manual and supply of prescription medicines
4. Battery-powered or hand-crank radio or television with NOAA Weather Radio feature
5. Spare batteries
6. Candles and matches or lighters (store matches and lighters in a waterproof container)
7. Drinking/cooking water — Store one gallon of water per person per day for at least three days, for drinking and sanitation
8. Household chlorine bleach and medicine dropper — mix 9 parts water to 1 part bleach to make a medicinal disinfectant. In an emergency, you can treat drinking water with 16 drops of regular household liquid bleach per gallon of water. Do not use scented, color safe or bleaches with added cleaners.
9. Food — Have at least a three day supply of non-perishable food that includes dehydrated meals, canned goods such as soups and a manual can opener
10. Infant formula and diapers.
11. Pet food, leashes and extra water for your pet
12. Moist towelettes, toilet paper, tissues, garbage bags and plastic ties for personal sanitation
13. Complete change of clothing including a long sleeved shirt, long pants and heavy duty shoes. Consider additional clothing if you live in a cold-weather climate. Be sure to include rain and cold weather gear
14. Eye glasses and contacts
15. Camping equipment such as sleeping bags, camp stoves, portable lamps or lanterns and extra fuel
16. Consider additional clothing and bedding — especially if you live in a cold-weather climate
17. Disposable plates, cup, utensils and paper towels.
18. Portable heater (oil or LP gas) plus extra fuel
19. Whistle to signal for help
20. Dust mask, to help filter contaminated air and plastic sheeting and duct tape to shelter-in-place.
21. Basic tool kit that includes a wrench or pliers to turn off utilities, hammer and/or hatchet
22. Cash and change, traveler's checks.
23. Important family documents such as copies of insurance policies, passports, other identification and bank account records in a waterproof, portable container
24. Local maps
25. Fire Extinguisher

Remember every emergency supply kit is unique to you and your family and should be created with your special needs in mind. To prepare, plan, and stay informed, visit www.ready.gov.