

Easy DIY to Hide Your Goods in Plain Sight

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Today's Preppers spend a lot of time, money, and effort setting up their bug out plans and stockpiling their supplies.

If you do not know how to hide your supplies in plain sight, all of your time and effort will be lost.

Many years ago, my uncle (a now deceased bootlegger), told me "don't keep all your moonshine in one place. Hide it in many small ones." I feel this advice is good for modern preppers, and have found the following places work well for these needs.

That said, as you explore building and maintaining hideaways, always do your best to disguise them with care, and do what you can to make sure they are not easily detected by police, rioters, or thieves.

Main Floor Wall Storage Areas

There is a lot of hidden storage space behind sheet rock walls and paneling.

- Use heavy knotty pine wood planks of different sizes such as 4'x 9" with 4'x6", and 4' x 4" as paneling. Mix and match these boards so the wall studs are covered.
- When making the door sections use 1"x1/2" strips of wood as tall as the paneling. This wood is used to hold and support the paneling when the doors are closed. A little bit of hand fitting may be required to get the best fit.

Remember the distance between 2 wall studs is about 16 inches. You can use those sixteen inches from the bottom to the top of the wall, or make small shelves that rest above or below zones where others may use axes or other tools to break into the wall.

Try not to have more than 2 hidden storage areas on the same wall. Make each storage area no more than 3 wall studs in length. Install hidden hinges on the inside of the wall stud and simple screw down attachments on the lock down wall stud.

To have a more organized storage area, add shelves between the wall studs with shelf brackets and test the closing of the doors. Finally add a top trim board to the top of the paneling which can double as a knickknack shelf. You should also trim doorways to complete the effect.

Closets

A bathroom linen closet makes a good hide away. If your shower or bath tub is next to the closet there will be a plumbing access door there. You can also store supplies behind and around the tub; but be sure they are stored in air, water and damp proof bags.

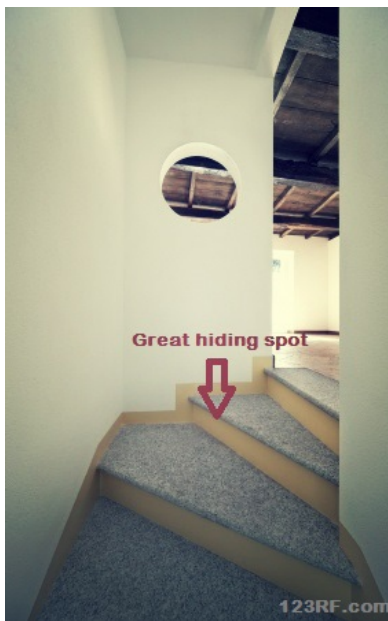
To hide the door into the plumbing area, place active litter boxes, used, but serviceable plungers, toilet brushes, bathroom supplies, or a dirty clothes basket. Take advantage of the "ick" factor and fear of disease to help you hide this particular storage area.

The back of the linen closet also makes a good storage area.

- Remove the sheet rock at the back of the closet.
- Build storage shelves between the wall studs.
- Replace the sheet rock and mount it to the studs with screws instead of nails.
- Replace the shelves and replace the linen on the shelves to hide the back of the closet. Most linen shelves sit on top of 1"x 1" wood shelf holders that are already attached to the walls.

Most older homes are built with small bedroom closets. When you remodel these rooms include a large walk in closet that sits in front of the old one. The old closet is now the perfect hidden storage room. Remove the old closet trim, then install sheet rock over the opening with screws instead of nails. Return clothes and other personal belongings to the new closet. After a while the new closet will look and feel like it has always been there.

Staircases



If your staircases are made of wood, carefully lift the top portion of the step and inspect the internal area to see how much room is available.

You can always frame the hole with wood or metal, or use support brackets to create hidden shelves inside the steps. When closing the step back up, use screws and cover with carpet.

This is also a good area to use hidden hinges that can be opened using pressure points and locking mechanisms.

The Attic

1. Attic Floor Storage Areas - The attic floor is an excellent area to hide your survival supplies, and it does not matter if it is finished or not. If the attic has not been finished it is a lot easier to build the storage compartments into the floor.

Between the floor beams, build in a bottom to support the items that are going to be stored there. These floor storage areas are for light items only, since you do not want heavy items falling through the ceiling. To cover the floor, use 3/4 inch plywood and secure with screws. To finish off, lay down area rugs that can be easily rolled up and rolled back down.

In finished attics, it is possible to install hide away compartments in the floor. First remove the old floor covering down to the plywood over the beams, and choose the area where the floor compartments are going to be located. Remove the plywood and install the compartment floor plates.

These storage compartments should hold only light items. Replace the plywood floor sections and secure with screws. Lay down area rugs that fits wall to wall and can be rolled up and rolled back down to cover the plywood floor.

2. Attic Wall Crawl Space Areas - It is fairly easy to install hideaways in the crawl spaces of a finished off attic.

- Build cubby hole storage areas 6' x 3' tall.
- Frame both ends of the cubby hole.
- Install sheet rock with screws to secure it to the frames.
- Hang a door across the opening that opens outward.
- Trim this doorway for a final touch.

Use this cubby storage area for normal storage. Keep some of your survival stockpile on the other side of each of the sheet rocked walls. To get to your supplies empty the cubby hole storage area, unscrew the sheet rock panels, and remove your supplies.

If you have an unfinished attic with step down construction, take advantage of these steps. Extend the top floor and wall area to cover the step down portion of the attic, and make it look like there are no step downs in this section of the attic.

Reinforce the floor and walls of the new section. This crawl space will be built with nails and hidden screws to give the appearance of a solid wall and floor. The survival supply area will be under the floor and behind the wall.

Hiding Items under the House in False Plumbing

When hiding supplies in plain sight the use of PVC piping and end plates that screw closed. This material is water proof, air tight, and can withstand very cold and hot temperatures.

After you build PVC containers, simply put them in and among existing plumbing. You can splice them into existing PVC pipes with T's that allow for natural flow of water, and then disguise the supply pipe with a valve, cleaning trap, or some other fixture.

Be creative, but always make it look as if the container is part of the plumbing system.

Under the House Between Floor Joists

Hiding survival supplies under the house between floor joists is a good and safe strategy. Most people are afraid of spiders and snakes. If they were to go to search under your house, they will not want to stay for long.

Make the entrance to under your house as uncomfortable as possible for unwanted visitors. When choosing a place under the house, take advantage of damp spots, or any other area where people will not want to go looking.

Just be sure that your supplies are in water proof containers, and that you can get to the supplies. It is also important to use stainless steel straps to go under the containers to hang piping, which makes a good disguise. Adding insulation in the area between the joists can help you hide all kinds of things, and also keep temperatures more stable in the summer and winter.

Bury Supplies under the House in the Dirt

Most houses crawl spaces have dirt floors. This area is damp, dirty, smelly, and often home to many types of spiders and snakes. Most people just do not want to go under there. This is the perfect place to bury your air tight and water tight containers.

Bury them near foundations or floor supports so you can always find them when you need them.

How to Hide Your Bug Out Supplies in Out Buildings

When hiding supplies in out buildings or sheds it is important to make the buildings look abandoned, or at least not used very often. Keep nothing of value in plain sight.

This building needs to be on the high ground of the property, and within sight of the house. Dig an underground storage area beneath the building, yet above the water table, and then reinforce the pit walls and floor to keep it from caving in.

Store everything in air tight and water tight containers stacked on shelves. Use a lockable trap door to seal the underground storage site and replace the old flooring to its original location.

In conclusion there are many places in and around you home to store your survival stores and weapons. The trick to it is to hide things in plain sight or in areas that might make a person nervous and afraid to continue the search.

Never stop thinking and developing better hiding places to store your survival goods. And, of course, remember never tell others about your supplies or their hiding places.



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