

8 Multipurpose Items to Use for Off-Grid Survival

2014-08-28 07:22:51 By Theresa Crouse

As preppers, we all know that the best items to stockpile are the ones that have [multiple purposes](#). Depending upon how long you're planning for space can quickly become an issue, especially if you have a large family. Another reason that multi-use items are great is because if you have to bug out, you can carry less but still have what you need if you plan carefully.

Everybody has a list of common [items that you should stockpile](#). Today, I felt creative and wanted to put together a list that you haven't seen before, at least in one place. Here is our list of must-have [multipurpose items](#) to use for off-grid survival, in no particular order.

Tampons

OK, forget for a minute that you know what a tampon is. Clear your head of the gross-out factor and just concentrate on what the product actually is: a compacted wad of sterile, extremely absorbent cotton. Because they're compact, you can store many of them in a small space and a few of them would take up very little room in your first aid kit.

The military has carried unscented tampons in their medic kits for decades. Here are a few uses:

- Obviously, feminine hygiene
- Barter
- Plugging bullet holes
- Stopping nosebleeds
- Unrolled, for wound dressing or packing
- Water filter to get out "floaters"
- Starting a fire
- The string makes a useable candle wick or soak the whole thing in wax for a small candle/fire starter
- Earplugs
- Fishing bobber (package with the tube inside)
- Packing an abscessed or broken tooth

Sewing Supplies

Oddly enough, we rarely see sewing kits listed on survival lists but if we experience a TEOTWAWKI event, you're going to need one for many different reasons. I'm not talking about just a needle and thread: you need to have several different weights (and materials) of thread and very small to very large needles. Here's why:

- Repair clothes
- Repair shoes
- Make clothes
- Repair tarps (waterproof thread would be good here)
- Repair damaged bug-out bags and tents
- Make tents from tarps or canvass
- Stitch wounds

- Barter
- Having the supplies and at least basic knowledge of sewing will give you a valuable skill that you can use or barter

Honey



123RF.com This stuff is better than gold in an emergency situation because it's easy to store, it NEVER spoils and it has a ton of practical uses.

- Has vitamins and minerals so if you're using a sweetener, honey is better than sugar
- Can be used as an antibacterial on wounds
- Is a great healing agent for wounds and helps keep the bandage from sticking
- Barter – sweeteners are going to be way up there on the list
- Excellent skin moisturizer (if your skin is so dry that it cracks, you're going to have problems)
- Makes a great burn treatment because of the antibacterial properties and the moisturizing power
- Soothes sore throats
- When mixed with vinegar and water is an effective parasite remover
- Make fly/bug strips

Herbs and Spices

Whether you choose to grow your own, store them dried or both, herbs and spices are going to make post-SHTF life better in a number of ways. We also recommend buying a book on using herbs for medicinal purposes so that you can correctly mix your own concoctions in a pinch.

Remember that just because an herb is natural doesn't mean that it's safe in any quantity. We think that herbs should be stockpiled because:

- They can help you avoid food fatigue
- They'll make excellent barter
- They have nutrients that improve the quality of your diet
- They can be used for a wide variety of medical purposes, depending on which spices you store.

It should be noted that many spices grow to useable size in just a few weeks so we also recommend storing seeds.

Ibuprofen and Acetaminophen



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You can pick these up relatively cheaply and because most bottles are only a third of the way full or so, you can combine the bottles if space is an issue. Leaving them sealed is, of course, the better option but do what you need to do.

These two NSAIDs are going to be invaluable and rare (after a while) in a post-SHTF situation, so we highly suggest adding them to your stockpile. Because each one works better for different ailments, we suggest stockpiling them both.

- Quick relief from headaches and migraines
- Relieves dental pain
- Are anti-inflammatories that work well on arthritis and joint and back pain
- Relieves menstrual pain
- Helps recover faster from sprains and injuries and provides pain relief in the meantime
- EXCELLENT barter items!
- Reduces fever quickly (remember that a fever is your body's way of killing disease, so unless the fever is extremely high, it may be better to let it rage for a day or two)

Spray Bottles and Empty Containers

Though these take up some space, you can safely bet that you're going to need them in a long-term emergency. Here are a few uses:

Spray Bottles:

- Cleaning solutions
- Disinfectants
- Plant misters
- Use to hygienically apply medicinal solutions to wounds or sunburns
- Saves water
- Barter

Empty Bottles/buckets

- Water storage
- Make water filtration devices from plastic bottles
- Storing dried foods if there's a sealed lid
- Floatation devices
- Solar lamps (bottles)
- Cut ends off of bottle and place over seedlings to save those small plants from frost
- Barter

Dental Floss

{adinserte usdeception}We constantly preach the value of paracord and we stand beside that, but people often overlook dental floss as a survival item. We won't make that mistake. Dental floss doesn't take up hardly any room and it has dozens of uses. Since it comes in both waxed and unwaxed, we'd suggest buying both. Here are just a few uses for dental floss, besides its intended use:

- Fishing line
- Repairing tarps or canvasses
- Tying up tarps for catching water or to build shelter
- Stitching wounds
- Shoe or boot repair
- Making a bow and drill to start a fire
- Making a snare or net
- Clothing repair
- Lashing your knife to a branch or wooden handle to make a spear (fishing or defense)
- Use unwaxed to lash your food to a spit to roast
- Staking plants
- Barter

Plastic Zippered Bags

You can store hundreds of these in practically no space at all and they have so many uses that they just HAD to make the list. We suggest stockpiling various sizes from the snack-sized to the gallon-sized.

- Keeping important documents dry
- Storing matches and other staples that must remain dry
- Place one over your shoes (or put your feet in them before putting your shoes on) to keep your feet warm and dry
- Keeping bugs out of foodstuff
- Storing clean wraps and bandages to keep them clean
- Collecting water
- Patching small leaks by taping the plastic over the leak on the outside
- Wound covering
- Sealing a chest wound
- Solar distillery for water
- Pillow (seal with duct tape)
- Place meat or perishables in baggie and store in snow or icy stream to preserve
- Store pine pitch or other sticky fire starters, etc. in your bag
- Barter

Notice that in addition to being extremely useful, these 8 multipurpose survival items will also be good for barter. That's because most people aren't going to think about them until they need them. They say that necessity is the mother of invention and if SHTF, that's certainly going to be the case.

If you have other unusual multi-purpose items to use for off-grid survival or can think about other uses for the items above, please share them with us in the comments section below.

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