



CRS TIPS & TRICKS

Water:

- 55-gallon food grade drums are available on Craigslist \$30.00 each – Visit the CRS website under Resources for complete How-To's.
- Never place stored water directly on concrete (concrete will leach into the container). Even a layer of cardboard in between will do.
- Water main shut off tool: Determine size required and place one tool at a central location in the CRS neighborhood (tree, mailbox).
- Chlorine-treated well water follows the same storage standards as municipal water, whereas untreated well water requires its own unique criteria.
- Freezing water in plastic gallon jugs is a highly effective, low-cost way to keep food frozen for up to 48 hours during power outages. These jugs, when frozen solid, act as large ice blocks, reducing "dead space" in the freezer, which increases efficiency and keeps temperatures lower for longer.
- Water filters & purifiers – keep a supply on hand.

Food:

- Jar Socks for mason jar storage prevent breakage – cutoff old socks at ankle.
- Do not store all of your survival supplies (food especially) in one location.
- Neighborhood potlucks will be in style as you pool your resources of perishable foods.
- To preserve cooking resources, stagger the cooking – rotate cooking duties.



Alternate cooking resources:

- Butane cooktop / stove – Use in well ventilated areas (consult User's Guide).
- Camp stove, wood stove or BBQ grill.



- Candles – Use a metal tray above some candles or stack bricks with a grate across the top with candles in the center.
- Car engine – NOT RECOMMENDED.
- Earth oven – Dig a hole in the ground, line it with rocks or bricks. Light a fire in it and let it burn for a few hours to heat the rocks. Once hot, clear out the coals and ashes. Place food on metal grate and lower it into the oven.
- Open fire pit.
- Gas range cooktop (use match to light burners).

- Hobo Stove – Simple homemade and portable, constructed from a metal container. Link to example:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3OIREsPFJGI>



- Kelly Kettle – Double walled stainless steel designed to boil water in 3-5 minutes, using sticks, pine cones, dry grass, etc. Can be expensive.

<https://www.amazon.com/Camp-Stove-Stainless-Minutes-Rehydrate/dp/B00483ZL22>



- Solar oven – like a box with clear sides that catches sunlight. Can reach 400 degrees Fahrenheit. Place in direct sunlight for best cooking.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OOdcH1Ge73s>



<https://www.instructables.com/DIY-Solar-Oven-1/>

Alternate cooking resources:

Portable butane cooktops are excellent for emergency, short-term, or off-grid cooking, offering fast heat, portability, and easy operation during power outages. Key features include automatic piezo ignition, safety shut-off systems. If used indoors during outages, always ensure proper ventilation to avoid carbon monoxide buildup. Use models with built-in, pressure-sensitive safety shut-off systems.



Sanitation:

- How to utilize your toilet instead of Pee/Poo buckets (see Additional Resources on CRS website).
- After a disaster, don't flush toilets until they can be checked out – prevents contamination.

Utilities: TIPS & TRICKS

- Always use leather gloves when shutting off a propane tank that is spewing gas.
- Instructions for How to Open Garage Doors when the power goes out.
<https://www.youtube.com/shorts/cVXCP8eiT70>
- Use portable solar inflatable (Luci) lights – wide variety and prices.
- Do NOT plug a generator into your home's electrical system, unless you use a transfer switch.

Communication:

- Emergency phone charger: <https://www.youtube.com/shorts/3Hazf7OJn08>
- Keep an emergency whistle handy to signal for help or warn of danger.



Vital Documents

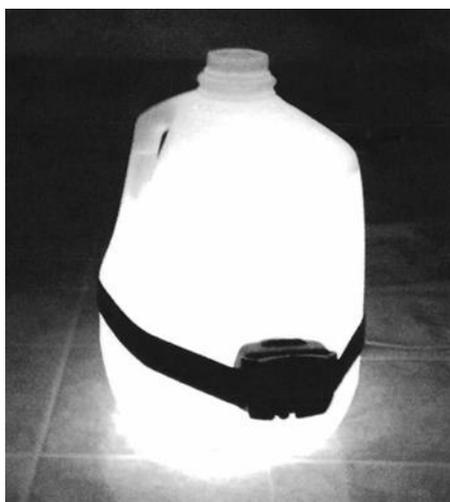
- Vital Documents – scan/copy to a thumb/USB drive for easy portability & store in a watertight container.

Car Emergency Kit

- Carry an old tin can, lighter and a 3 or 4 wick candle in your car emergency kit – can increase inner car temp by as much as 20 degrees!

Miscellaneous....

- Use Museum putty /Quake Hold Gel to secure objects on high shelves, etc.
- Consult your child's school website or contact the office directly to obtain a copy of their emergency preparedness plan.
- Best DIY Firestarters - [Best DIY Firestarters.pdf](#)
- Keep your car gas tank at least half full. Following a disaster emergency workers will have priority. Gas stations will most likely be closed.
- Always carry a current street map in case you to find alternate routes.
- Exercise caution when opening doors, cabinets, etc. Things have probably shifted.
- Clear your path to avoid slips, trips and falls. Look for hazards, broken glass and objects in your path.
- Be prepared for aftershocks – they WILL happen.
- Under certain emergency circumstances, your vehicle might serve as a secure sanctuary for your pet. It is a familiar environment which would effectively serve as an extra-large pet crate.
- How many First Aid Kits are too many? Focus on 1-3 robust kits (home, vehicle, Go-Bag). Rotate expired supplies as needed.



Emergency “Lantern”

Transform a standard water jug into a high-efficiency emergency lantern by simply strapping a headlamp to it or pointing a flashlight inward. The water naturally diffuses the light to illuminate a whole room. Best of all, your light source doubles as a backup water supply.

Duct Tape Solutions for Emergency Situations



When most people think about duct tape, they picture quick household fixes. But in an emergency, duct tape becomes something much bigger than a simple repair tool.

When you have to rely on supplies at hand, duct tape turns into one of the most valuable items you can own. It's lightweight, cheap, easy to store, and useful in ways most people never think about until it's too late. In a pinch, a roll of duct tape can keep a small problem from turning into a disaster.

11. Emergency Wound Protection

In a long-term crisis, duct tape serves as a vital tool for emergency wound protection when medical supplies run thin. While it should never touch an open wound directly, it can be used as an outer layer to:

- Secure improvised bandages (cloth or gauze) to block dirt and slow bleeding.
- Reinforce wraps on sprained joints for extra stability.

10. Repairing Broken Footwear

While many stockpile food, they often overlook the importance of durable footwear for mobility. If shoes fail, duct tape serves as a vital emergency fix to secure torn soles or broken straps, buying enough time to reach safety.

9. Making a Quick Water Container or Patch

When a water container cracks, duct tape can provide a quick, temporary seal for small splits and weak seams [1, 2]. While not a permanent solution for potable storage, it can effectively stop leaks long enough to haul or collect essential water in an emergency.

8. Repairing Torn Clothing and Gear

In an emergency, duct tape serves as a versatile tool for temporary repairs:

- Water Containers: It can seal small cracks or leaking seams temporarily. While not ideal for long-term potable storage, it prevents water loss during transport or collection.
- Gear & Clothing: To patch tears in fabric, press the edges together and apply tape to both sides. For high-wear areas like knees, round the corners of the tape to prevent peeling and ensure it lies flat to block wind and moisture.

7. Creating Rope, Straps, or Strong Bindings

Twisted into cords or braided into strips, duct tape serves as a rugged substitute for rope or paracord. It's strong enough to secure gear, build shelters, or create load-bearing straps for firewood and packs. In a pinch, it can even be tied into functional knots and loops for secure tie-down points.