

**5-YEAR
FIX-IT-ALL
WARRANTY**

THE DEFINITIVE

HOME EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS GUIDE



WHEN YOU NEED ROOM

Cook
PORTABLE WAREHOUSES®

SINCE 1984

FOR YOUR STUFF®

The background of the entire page is a blurred photograph of firefighters. On the right side, a firefighter in a dark blue uniform with bright yellow reflective stripes and a yellow helmet is visible, facing away from the camera. In the lower center and left, other firefighters in orange gear are blurred, suggesting movement. The overall scene is an emergency response, likely at a fire or disaster site.

THE DEFINITIVE HOME EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS GUIDE

No one knows when a weather or other emergency will occur. But there are things you can do to prepare for these events. Will you be ready?

It's critical to be prepared for a short or long term emergency year round with a stockpile of supplies. Storms and other crisis can leave your family stuck at home, roads impassable and stores closed.

Learn more about smart ways to keep an ongoing stockpile of those necessities that you could need for anything like a tornado, hurricane, strong rains, snow storms and more.

HOW TO GET STARTED WITH YOUR STOCKPILE

Consider the stockpile size

Deciding on the size of your stockpile most likely includes thinking about your geographic location, size of your family and available space. The minimum size would have enough accommodations for 3 days but we would recommend 14 days as the ideal.

If you live in an area prone to strong storms or heavy snow, it's probably a good idea to stock up to 30 days. Our Cook sheds come in a variety of sizes so our buildings can accommodate small or large stockpiles.

Choose a secure place

The best place for your stockpile is somewhere that is easy to access during an emergency and sturdy enough to stay standing and protect your stuff and your family. It's important to also be in a cool, dark place.

A backyard shed is the perfect space to keep your stockpile because it's accessible without getting in the way of your daily routine. And a Cook Portable Warehouse will stand strong through any weather or other emergency because of our unmatched construction standards and building materials.

Build your stockpile

Start by checking to see what you have on hand at home already. You probably already own a lot of the items that

you need, the key is finding them, getting them ready and choosing a central location to keep them. Use clear plastic bins to hold these things so you can easily keep track of what you have and what you need.

To reduce upfront costs, try to pick up a few things during each weekly shopping trip, look out for sales, use coupons and other promotions and buy generic when possible. Or visit a big box grocery store and split those large quantities with a neighbor or friend.

Stock it with the right stuff

Having the right stuff stocked is essential and getting everything prepared beforehand will help decrease your stress level and anxiety. Non-perishable food, water, layers of clothing, pet food, first aid kit, manual can opener, flashlights, batteries, compass, signal flare, duct tape, candles, matches and copies of important documents are examples of some important items.

Check the stockpile routinely

It's good practice to check your emergency stockpile once or twice yearly. Discard any items that have expired or are damaged. Make sure to rotate so newer items are placed toward the back with older items toward the front. Bottled waters should be rotated every 6 months. Most canned goods last between 1-5 years, if stored correctly, depending on the contents.

MUST HAVE NUTRITIONAL ITEMS FOR YOUR STOCKPILE

A big part of being prepared is having the right food and drink items stocked to keep your family healthy and that will last a long time. It's also a good idea to keep these important objects outside your pantry to avoid confusion. A Cook shed is the perfect safe, dry place for your entire food stockpile.

Here are some of the most useful food items to keep on hand in case of a weather related emergency.

Bottled Water - Having enough bottled water during a power outage is key to staying safe. Make sure you have at least one gallon, per person, per day.

Canned Items - What you stock depends on your family's preferences but some good ideas include canned vegetables, beans, spaghetti sauce, hearty soups, juices, poultry and other canned meats. Just remember everything you choose has to be non-perishable and should be low in salt.

Grains - Foods that are high in carbohydrates like grains store well and are filling. Get pastas, whole grain rice and healthy breakfast cereals.

Pantry Staples - Things you use every day like instant coffee, tea bags, seasonings like salt, pepper and bullion and baking essentials like sugar, flour, baking powder, baking soda, cooking oil and vegetable shortening should be in your stockpile.

High Energy Foods - Grab foods that pack a punch of energy without taking up too much space like granola, trail mix, energy bars, peanut butter, nuts, dried fruit, beef jerky and chocolate.

Specialty Foods - Consider if any family members have special dietary or nutritional needs that your stockpile has to accommodate. Examples include things like vitamins for senior citizens or formula for babies.

Pet Food - Don't forget your pets; they need to stay safe during emergencies too. So make sure you have water, enough dry food and treats.



ESSENTIAL ITEMS FOR YOUR EMERGENCY STOCKPILE

Bad weather or other emergency situations can happen at any time. And with any change or problem that life throws at you, it's important to be prepared beforehand.

There are many critical things to stock-up on prior to a weather related incident. Here are the important items that we recommend adding to your emergency stockpile.

Flashlights - Gather up your flashlights, check to see that they are in working order and have fresh batteries and place them in one central location. Other smart and inexpensive things to have on hand include unscented candles, matches and a crank flashlight.

Spare Batteries - Make sure you have a variety of sizes (AA and AAA are the most common) and at least one replacement for each size. Don't forget the small round batteries that power watches, hearing aids and other important things. If you do run out of spares, gather up electronic controllers and remotes and borrow batteries.

First Aid Kit - Your first aid kit should be stocked with adhesive bandages, gauze, antibiotic ointment, aspirin and a cold compress. Make sure you are stocked with necessary prescription medications and medical supplies for all family members.

Hand Sanitizer/Baby Wipes - These are helpful to conserve water and keep you sparkling clean. Having enough of each on hand also cuts down on the chance for sicknesses to spread since your family will be stuck inside for an extended period of time.

Duct Tape - Essential for any temporary repairs like broken or cracked windows around your home. Use duct tape until you can get a more permanent solution. Make sure to have a pair of sharp scissors as well.

Sleeping Bags/Blankets - Have a couple clean, accessible sleeping bags on hand. Make sure to check and repair any holes beforehand. Then, your family can stay comfortable and warm despite the exterior conditions.

Manual Can Opener - It's good to have for cans without the easy open pop top. If possible, get canned goods that are easily opened, but having a manual can opener gives you a back-up plan.

Other things you might want to stock include work gloves, a transistor radio, reading materials, utility knife, garbage bags, fire extinguisher, sewing supplies, whistle and a shovel.



FIRST AID MEDICAL CHECKLIST

- Bandages, gauze and bandage tape
- Germicidal hand wipes
- Alcohol-based hand sanitizer
- Antiseptic wipes
- Non-latex gloves
- Antibacterial ointment
- Small pair of scissors and tweezers
- Prescription medications and medical supplies
- Non-prescription medications (acetaminophen, ibuprofen, antacids and laxatives, etc.)

IMPORTANT DOCUMENT CHECKLIST

(store copies in a waterproof, portable container)

- Bank account numbers, credit card account numbers and company contact information
- Birth, marriage and death certificates
- Insurance policies and Will
- Contracts, deeds, stocks and bonds
- Passports, Social Security cards
- Immunization records
- Prescription information
- Inventory of valuable household goods
- Veterinary records for pets and photos of pets