

Get Home Bag (updated 6/7/19):

Priorities: *Water, Food, Shelter, Security, Communication, Mobility. Everything serves multiple purposes. If you never need this stuff, that would be fantastic/ideal! If you might or do need it, it'll be extremely valuable. Right?*

- Backpack** – w padded shoulder straps & waistband, pockets, ordinary looking, from [Walmart \\$10](#) or thrift store.
(Conceal your backpack in a **dry cleaner's drop off bag** w label visible. Thieves don't want dirty clothes!)
- Victorinox **Swiss Army knife** - Small, Classic style w scissors & tweezers
- Victorinox **Swiss Army knife** - Large, locking blade, with wood & metal saw cutting blades, OR
- Gerber **multi-plier** tool with a saw blades
- Fixed blade knife** w sawback blade; scabbard wrapped w mil-spec 550 paracord (Glock knife ~\$30)
- Pepper spray** (2x; primary & backup; not expired)
- Whistle** (cheap referee's whistle is fine)
- Self defense.** Your decision. Be proficient.
- Surveyor's tape** - 10-20' bright colored for signaling, marking, backtracking, way finding, alerting others
- Duct tape** (condensed, small roll, first aid, repairs, signaling, etc.)
- Maps** - folding state map to see alternate routes incl train tracks; navigation, fire starter, leave messages, note taking
- Compass** (for cross country walking to shorten distance between points)
- Paper, wooden pencil** (won't fail, shavings for fire starter, etc.)
- Pamphlets:** Survival, First Aid, Edible Plants, etc
- Fish hooks** with nylon leaders in original packaging (fishing, security perimeter, etc.)
- Bug spray (w DEET), sunscreen** tube, Chapstick
- LED flashlight**, hand crank flashlight & **LED headlamp** (w red & white bulbs)
- 1" metal jingle bell(s)** & **100' fishing line** for security perimeter for nighttime sleeping, and for fishing!
- First aid** (antibiotic, gauze, soap, band aids, moleskin; Advil, benadryl, chewable aspirin 4 heart attack victims).
Priorities: "CAB" = Circulation (bleeding), Airway, Breathing; Family medications list to help EMS/doctors.
- Cigarette lighter** x2; 10 large **safety pins**; **Coffee filters** (10-20+) (multi-purpose); -**Cash** \$100+
- Nalgene bottle** (1 liter; *wide mouth*). Packed with: **Water tablets**, Sawyer **water filter** (\$25 at Walmart), 2 chem lights, 'spork', coffee filters, Sharpie. IMPT: *Have 3 ways to make drinkable/potable water* (coffee pre-filter, then Sawyer or Katydyn, tablets, boil, iodine, ultraviolet solar or electric, chlorine bleach-unscented)
- Cup** stainless steel w folding handle, nested with Nalgene bottle (multipurpose); eating, boiling, digging, signaling
- Food** - freeze dried, re-sealable pouches. Lightweight; get several (Walmart camping area, Academy, REI, Sam's, Costco)
- Toilet paper** – 1 roll compressed in ziplock (fire starter, signaling, pillow, obvious, etc.)
- Trash bags** – 2, contractor grade; *large*, light weight (multipurpose), folded in ziplock
- 550 paracord** – 2, 50' bundles; wrapped in ziplocks; LEARN square & bowline; Good knots are easy AND can save lives!
- Zipties** – 50 medium, 5 large
- Poncho** (mil-spec camo is ideal; shelter, sleeping, cushion, concealment, water collection, stretcher), folded in ziplock OR [Ultra-Lite, Frogg Toggs](#) or a cheap one: [Disposable Rain Poncho](#).
- Bivy sack** (small, waterproof shelter); Alternative: Four 55 big trash bags (stuffed w leaves = mattress & blanket!)
- Head net** for sleeping, hunting, filtering, seining, concealment, etc.
- Nylon **spandex shorts** to prevent chafing for chubby guys walking distance; in ziplock
- Crossfit shoes**
- Socks** – 2 pair thick, good quality, wool blend; avoid cotton; in ziplock
- Spare t-shirt & underwear**; in ziplock
- Bandanas** (4) (multipurpose; first aid, drying, filtering, foraging, flagging, cooling, etc.), folded in ziplock
- Towel** – microfiber for cooling, cleaning, drying, pre-filtering, etc.; --Leather **gloves** (*your hands are critical*)
- Smoke hood for exiting smoky, toxic environments. <http://elmrIDGEprotection.com/> - ~\$215 *Think about it.*

Most of this can be found at home, Walmart, Academy or REI. Do NOT delay. Start now. Be prepared. One for every family member as GIFTS! If you never need your bag, that would be fantastic! If you do need it, it'll be extremely valuable. Right? Finally, make a basic family communication plan ("How would we communicate if cell phones quit working?" Discuss timing, meeting location, etc.). Make a family code words for (a) safety and (b) distress.

Uses – For a bandana

A bandana is another one of those things that is useful for a thousand things but nothing specific. It's right up there with duct tape and rope. The things only weigh a couple ounces, are [dirt cheap](#), and are a must have in your Get Home Gab, [Bug Out Bag](#) or [Urban Survival Gear](#). Here is just a short list of possible uses for a [bandana](#).

1. Signal (also see [signal mirror](#))
2. Neck Gaiter for cold weather
3. Tourniquet (But for Snake Bites use a [Sawyer Extractor](#))
4. Pot Holder
5. [Collecting Wild Edibles](#)
6. Sun block for neck
7. Sling (first-aid – also see [medical kits](#) for your BOB)
8. Sling (weapon with a stone, lead sinkers, soap or another heavy item)
9. Sling (for a staff)
10. Cordage (strips or as is);
11. Handcuffs
12. Washcloth/Towel (Bathe out of a [Collapsible Bucket](#))
13. Sweatband
14. Waist pack/pouch
15. Hobo Pack
16. Padding a hotspot
17. Cleaning Patches for Firearm
18. Bullet Patches for Muzzleloader
19. Gun Wipe Cloth (with oil)
20. Toilet Paper
21. Mark a Trail
22. Dish Rag
23. Napkin
24. Eye patch
25. Pre-water Filter (like [Coffee Filters](#))
26. Clean Glasses and other lens
27. Ear Muffs
28. Bind a stone and toss a line over a limb
29. [Dust Mask](#) (in [Urban Survival](#))
30. Wet and wear for Hot Weather
31. Sneezing or coughing

Uses - For a Plastic Bucket by [CTD Suzanne](#)

A huge part of being successful at surviving during a disaster is to improvise, adapt and overcome. When supplies are limited, it will be imperative to think outside the box and think of alternative uses for the gear you have. Simple things like garbage bags become ponchos, shelters and water-catchers. Many people already utilize food-grade plastic buckets for their food supply; however, these [five-gallon buckets](#) provide a lot more uses than just food storage. The [0.900 mil HDPE-approved resin white](#) has a wire bail handle with plastic grip. It is impact-resistant and is good at keeping out moisture. Add a gamma lid, you have an airtight seal for anything you want to store. Measuring 11.89" in diameter and 14.46" tall, the bucket can withstand temperatures from 160 to -100 degrees Fahrenheit. Each bucket only weighs 2.08 pounds without the lid. Stock up on some sturdy and tough buckets that are perfect for everyday use, but are handy for many other uses.

1. [Food](#) storage (in mylar bags w oxygen absorbers)
2. Water storage, catchment, filtering, treating, transporting
3. Make a water well - remove bottoms, drill holes in sides, stack deep in a hole
4. Cistern
5. Keep caught fish in it (For easier survival fishing, use the [automatic fishing reel](#).)
6. Emergency toilet (Use [waste bags](#) to stay sanitary.)
7. Store handguns, ammunition, spent brass, cleaning & reloading supplies
8. Ferment beer, Distill liquor
9. Back-up BOB
10. Store [batteries](#)
11. [Water filtration system](#)
12. Store rice grains, flour, sugar, salt, beans, potatoes, coffee, etc.
13. Use as a planter
14. Collect rainwater
15. Resting stool
16. Trash can
17. Hold bait
18. Use as a cooler
19. Livestock feeder; Hold pet/livestock food
20. Wash clothes - drill hole in lid to fit handle of a NEW toilet plunger. Drill holes rubber plunger and use as a washing machine. Holes in plunger allows for agitating water.
21. Rinse clothes - drill holes in one, put wet clothes in the bucket with holes, place another bucket on top and step in it.
22. Wash dishes
23. Use it to milk a cow; Churn butter
24. Hold [first aid supplies](#)
25. Coal, charcoal, wood, kindling storage; Hold [sterno](#) or [MRE heater fuel](#)
26. Hold seeds
27. Fill it with sand as an alternative to sand bags
28. Game/animal trap; game collector
29. Pull off wire handle and use it as a tool, straw or handle for something else
30. Hold [gear](#) and back-up supplies
31. Hang from a tree to make it a decoy or curiosity to others; add a note or instructions.
32. Floatation device, make pontoons for a raft
33. Weapon, fill with rocks, water, nails, screws, nails; cut/break it to use shards for weapons
34. Bury valuables, food (in mylar bag) in a cooler temperature, etc.
35. Solar still
36. Poke a drip hole, and make a delayed timing device
37. Bang on it for a SOS distress call, relieve stress or musical percussion/entertainment
38. Game feeder
39. Step stool

40. Hold a 72-hour food kit
41. Make dough
42. Keep paper products dry
43. Bear and raccoon-proof storage
44. Fill with rocks or sand and use as an anchor
45. Grow potatoes, plants
46. Solar heater
47. Fish, lobster or crab trap (w wire mesh fastened)
48. Buoy
49. Water marker, land marker
50. Bailing bucket for a leaky or flooded boat
51. Use it a sieve
52. Catch and keep crawfish
53. Catch minnows for bait or food
54. Use the lid to plug a hole
55. Use multiple lids as wheels
56. Store/hid barter items
57. Wind break to start a [fire](#) inside it in bad weather
58. Mix concrete
59. Store tools
60. Hold cold-weather and [rain gear](#) clothing
61. Hold [matches](#) and other fire-starting tools
62. Hide valuables under a layer of something marked on bucket (e.g. "bolts")
63. Heat water
64. Hold sanitation supplies and toiletries
65. Use for bathing
66. Cover plants or crops to prevent them from freezing
67. Keep personal items, like copies of birth certificates and social security cards
68. Store plastic dining ware and [cooking utensils](#)
69. Store medicines
70. Store baby's bug-out kit
71. Keep [ropes and paracord](#)
72. Use the lid as a Frisbee for entertainment
73. Use the rubber gasket seal from the [gamma lid](#)
74. Fill with sand or dirt and use it as post hole
75. Fill it up with dirt, sand or water and use as an exercise weight(s)
76. Use as a dumbwaiter or counterbalance
77. Remove the plastic grip and use as a tool, straw
78. Shovel
79. Emergency shower - poke holes in the bottom
80. Make a compass
81. Use it as a fulcrum
82. Cut, saw or break it and use the shards for weapons, shapes for tools
83. Bury to make a trip hazard; add sharp items for more affect
84. Fill several with dirt, and line them up to make a protective barrier
85. Use as a glowing area light (with a light inside), or beacon, marker
86. Chicken roost

Accessories: Lids, Mylar bags, Oxygen absorbers, Spigots (1/2" boiler), nut, washers, rubber washers, Waterproof caulk, Hoses, Hose connectors, Plugs, Duct tape, Mosquito netting, Wire mesh, Ceramic, reusable, water filters, Coffee filters, Bleach, Permanent marker, Rope, Pulleys, "S" hooks



25 Practical Survival Uses For Duct Tape - by [Tim MacWelch](#)

Over the past 70 years of its existence, this staple product of fix-it-yourselfers has been used by virtually every walk of life, for jobs that I'm sure the duct tape developers never imagined. So how can we use it for survival?

Here are my top 25 survival uses for duct tape, in no order whatsoever.

1. *Repairing a cracked water bottle or a pierced hydration bladder.* A little strip of DT is the next best thing to a bandage for an ailing water vessel. Just dry the surface before you try to tape your patch in place, most forms of duct tape don't stick to wet surfaces.
2. *Survival arrow fletching.* Tear off a few 5-inch pieces, and a long edge of one piece to the arrow shaft, fold the tape lengthwise, and stick the other long edge of that piece to the arrow. Repeat this process one or two more times; trim the vanes to shape with your knife; and you will have a serviceable arrow fletching.
3. *Butterfly bandage strips.* Cut two small strips of DT, and add a smaller strip across their centers (sticky side to sticky side) to create a makeshift butterfly suture.
4. *Make cordage.* Twist one or several lengths of duct tape into a cord or rope.
5. *Patch a hole in canoe.* I wouldn't trust my life to this one, but it's been done more than once.
6. *Fashion a belt.* When you are starving in the wild, and your pants start falling down, run a piece of DT through your belt loops and stick it to itself in the front. Overlap it about 4 or 5 inches and you'll still be able to peel the belt apart when nature calls.
7. *First aid sling.* Fold a length of DT down the middle, so that it is half the original width and no longer exposing a sticky side. Use the strap to make a sling for a busted arm.
8. *Leave a note.* Write on it with a Sharpie, or use strips to form letters.
9. *Handcuff alternative.* If someone is acting up during a survival emergency, you can duct tape their hands together around a tree to prevent them from becoming a danger to themselves or others.
10. *Mend shoes and clothing.*
11. *Repair your glasses.*
12. *Attach shelter elements.* A few trash bags and some duct tape, and you have a survival shelter roof, or a sleeping bag cover, or a wind break, or...
13. *Attach survival gear.* Tape a spark rod to the side of your knife sheath, you'll always have a fire source.
14. *Make a hat.* If you believe what you see on TV, the "Mythbusters" guys made a pretty nice looking [hat out of duct tape](#) on a recent episode.
15. *Afix bandages.* Place a sterile dressing over your wound, and strap it in place with DT. Hopefully you're not too hairy where you got injured.
16. *Fix your rain gear.* Keep the dry stuff dry, and keep the water out, by mending your ripped rain gear with a few strips.
17. *Make a drinking cup.* Some creative folding and sticking can result in a cup you can drink from.
18. *Make a spear.* Strap your knife to a pole and you can fend off beasts, or make one your dinner.
19. *Blister care.* Cover the blistered area with a bit of cotton gauze, and tape over the cotton. Make sure that the duct tape fully covers the cotton and doesn't touch the blister at all.
20. *Mark a Trail.* Use it to blaze a trail or signal for rescue, especially if your DT is brightly colored or reflective.
21. *Make emergency repairs on your Bug Out Vehicle.* Leaking hoses and windows that won't stay up don't stand a chance against the mending powers of duct tape.
22. *Keep the feathers in your sleeping bag.* If you have a hole in your down sleeping bag, the feathers will pour out faster than excuses from a politician. Patch the hole with DT.
23. *Keep your tent closed.* A damaged zipper could leave your tent door flapping in the wind. Stick the door shut, and keep the bugs and critters out.
24. *Splint a leg.* A broken ankle or leg can be stabilized with ample splint material, padding and duct tape. Pad the crotch of a forked branch with some cloth and duct tape to fashion a quick crutch to go with your splint.
25. *Splint a broken tent pole or fishing pole.* By taping a stick to the broken area of your tent pole or fishing rod, you might just get one last adventure out of it.

I may very well be the biggest duct tape fan alive. I'm aware that many survivalists have said the exact same words at some point in their lives, but I still think of myself as the biggest duct tape hoarder at this point. I have about two rolls of them in each bug-out bag, three in the car, three more in a kitchen cabinet and one on the balcony. They're different colors, textures and widths, to cover all possible needs.

Having different types of duct tape in your bug-out bag and around the house is crucial. For example, brightly colored tape can give your taillight a quick "fix" or help you make a trail from bits and pieces stuck on trees or buildings. On the other hand, wide duct tape can fix a tear in your tent or stock a bottle of water from leaking.

These are just a couple examples, I'll show you many, many more in just a moment. I believe it's very important to know everything you can do with the items you have in your bug-out bag. There are many things there you can use in multiple ways and you should know every one of them, so you can put them to good use when the situation asks for it.

So today's episode will be about duct tape:

- **Fix a tear in your tent** - If you have to sleep outdoors, in a tent, you`re going to want to conserve heat anyway you can. In which case, tears and/or a broken zipper are your worst enemies. Luckily, all you need is some duct tape to cover the holes inside and out, for double protection.
- **Fix your sleeping bag** - A good rest is essential if you want to have the power and the focus to keep the battle for survival going. This means your sleeping bag needs to be in good shape. To keep it that way, you can seal tears and holes with duct tape and make sure you don`t lose the feathers in it.
- **Fix your water bottle** - Wrap it all up in duct tape and you can forget about leaks. Every drop of water is crucial when you`re trying to survive, so any patch work will do.
- **Fix your clothing** - Yes, duct tape can repair pretty much everything, even the clothes you`re wearing. If you`ve got a rip or tear in your shirt, your skin gets exposed to scratches, blisters, burns and freezing cold. To protect yourself from these accidents, cover the tear with duct tape on the inside and on the outside.
- **Add insulation to your clothes and shoes** - This is one of the greatest things about duct tape. You can`t just fix things, but also prevent them. If you want to keep yourself warm in cold weather, patch you clothes with duct tape on the inside. This way, your body heat will be sealed inside your clothes. The same way goes with shoes. Stick some duct tape inside them (sticky side down) and you`ll stop losing heat through the soles.
- **Make emergency repairs on your car** - It`s not ideal, but when you`ve got nothing else on hand, duct tape will do. It can temporarily repair leaking hoses, broken tail lights, and cracked windows.
- **Fix broken windows** - No, that doesn`t apply only to your car window. If you`re at home and your windows cracked in the middle of a snowstorm or a hurricane, duct tape can fix the problem for a short while. It can`t work miracles, but it can keep you from freezing.
- **Make your own shelter** - When you`ve got nowhere to sleep, you get creative. You`ll need some clothes, blankets, trash bags, carton boxes — or whatever else can keep you protected from wind and rain — and some duct tape.
- **Attach shelter elements** - Just a few trash bags and some duct tape, and you have a survival shelter roof, or a sleeping bag cover, or a wind break, or...
- **Repair a broken tent pole or fishing pole** - This is clearly an emergency solution and you`ll need a LOT of duct tape to make it work. But, after all, keeping your family warm and well fed for another day or night is important enough to try anything.
- **Make a hat** - Sunstrokes are hard to take, so the best thing to do is to make yourself a hat from whatever you`ve got on hand. If that`s duct tape, then wrap your head in it. It will reflect the heat and keep you protected.
- **Make a drinking cup** - I don`t have any blueprints for making a drinking cup, but when you`ve got duct tape, you can make one with pretty much anything: paper, leaves, a carved piece of wood...
- **Fix your glasses** - If you wear glasses and you happened to misplace them at some point, then you know how important they are. Especially when it comes to emergency situations, even one hour without your glasses can bring your chances of survival close to zero. So why risk it? If you break your glasses, fix them with duct tape.
- **Reseal food packages** - When it comes to survival, you can`t afford to lose any food at all. So if you`ve opened a package and haven`t eaten everything inside, you`ll need to keep the leftovers as fresh as possible. Use duct tape to seal up the package until the next meal.
- **Reinforce knots** - If you have duct tape, you don`t need to make perfect knots. Just reinforce them with duct tape, but make sure you`ve got a knife or scissors to cut it when you want to untie the knot.
- **Start a fire** - You can wad up a piece of duct tape and use it as a fire starter.
- **Mark a trail** - You`re going to need colored duct tape for this, if you want it to be easier to find your way back. Stick pieces of it on trees, buildings or even down the road.
- **Hang perimeter or security lights** - If you want people to know you`ve set camp there, make it clear by stringing a rope made of duct tape around it.
- **Catch pesky insects** - This one works like magic. Just roll off a few strips of duct tape around the place you sleep or eat and those nasty insects will get stuck on it and leave you alone.
- **Make a reflective surface** - This is great for signaling purposes, but it only works if the tape you use is reflective.
- **Wrap a sprained ankle** - It`s not a pleasant feeling, wrapping your sprained ankle in duct tape, but it will give you the support you need until you get real medical help.
- **Make butterfly bandage strips** - This is how you do it: cut two small strips of DT, then place a smaller strip across their centers to improvise a butterfly bandage strip.
- **Make a sling** - I`d suggest you use a bandana or a shirt for this one, but if you don`t have any, then use duct tape. It will hold your arm or leg in place, but you`ll need to seek medical help asap.
- **Affix bandages** - To make sure your bandages stay in place, stick a piece of duct tape on top of them, to keep them fixed.
- **Blister care** - Cover the blister with a piece of cotton gauze or even a napkin, then fix it in place with duct tape. DO NOT touch the blister (or any wound, for that matter) with duct tape!
- **Protect yourself from insect bites** - Wrap duct tape around your pant cuffs to seal them off from blood-sucking ticks when out hiking or camping.
- **Leave a note** - You can write on a piece of duct tape with a Sharpie or you can make large-font letters from strips.

- **Fix a book** - You can repair a book that's falling apart by reinforce the binding with duct tape or sticking back the detached pages.
- **Fix a taillight** - You should only use this method when there's no other solution. If you've got a broken taillight, use brightly colored duct tape to hold the remaining pieces together.
- **Hide objects** - You can use duct tape to hide keys or money. For example, you can tape an extra car key underneath your car or hide money around the house.

34 Uses of Duct Tape for Survival and Emergencies

Repair a tent: You open your tent at the campsite and oops — a little tear. No problem as long as you've brought your duct tape along. Cover the hole with a patch; for double protection mirror the patch inside the tent. You'll keep insects and weather where they belong.

Make a rope: Twist one or several lengths of duct tape into a cord or rope. Of course [paracord](#) would be a lot better and you do have some of that, right?)

Make a clothesline: Twisting a long piece of Duct tape makes a great piece of rope to use as a clothesline.

Hold the feathers in your sleeping bag: If you have a hole in your down sleeping bag, you can patch the hole with duct tape. No more feathers flying out all over the place.

Reseal packages of food: Use duct tape to seal up partially opened packages of food. Fold over the top of the package and seal it tight with a piece of duct tape. Works for cans, too. Simply fashion a lid out of duct tape.

Hold your tent closed: A damaged zipper could leave your tent door flapping in the wind. Stick the door shut, and keep the bugs and critters out.

Splint a broken tent pole or fishing pole: Tape a stick to the broken area of your tent pole or fishing rod, and you might just get one last adventure out of it.

Catch pesky flies: Roll off a few foot-long strips of duct tape and hang them from a branch or your tent or cabin rafters. The DT serves as flypaper and when you depart, you can roll up the tape to toss it in the trash. No need to use nasty chemicals, either.

Repair your water bottle: Have a cracked water bottle or a pierced hydration bladder? A little strip of duct tape to the rescue. Be sure to dry the surface before you try to tape your patch in place since most forms of duct tape don't stick to wet surfaces. You can also wrap plastic water bottles with duct tape to prevent cracking and leaking.

Make a spear: Strap your knife to a pole and you have a trusty spear to fend off beasts, or make one into your dinner.

Create a shelter: With some trash bags and some duct tape, and you have a survival shelter roof, or sleeping bag cover, a wind break, or well, there are kits of possibilities.

Wrap a sprained ankle: If you trip and sprain your ankle, wrap the ankle with duct tape to give it some support.

Make butterfly bandage strips: Cut two small strips of DT, and add a smaller strip across their centers (sticky side to sticky side) to create a makeshift butterfly suture.

Make a sling: Fold a length of DT down the middle, so that it is half the original width and no longer exposing a sticky side. Use the strap to make a sling for a busted arm.

Affix bandages: Place a sterile dressing over your wound, and strap it in place with DT.

Blister care: Cover the blistered area with a bit of cotton gauze, and tape over the cotton. Make sure that the duct tape fully covers the cotton and doesn't touch the blister at all.

Create a splint: A broken ankle or leg can be stabilized with ample splint material, padding and duct tape. Pad the crotch of a forked branch with some cloth and duct tape to fashion a quick crutch to go with your splint.

Make a bandage: Fold tissue paper or paper towel to cover the wound and cover this with duct tape.

Make a temporary roof shingle: If you have lost a wooden roof shingle, make a temporary replacement by wrapping duct tape in strips across a piece of 1/4-inch (6-millimeter) plywood you've cut to size. Wedge the makeshift shingle in place to fill the space. It will close the gap and repel water until you can repair the roof.

Fix a hole in your siding: Has the stormy weather damaged your vinyl siding? A broken tree limb tossed by the storm, hailstones, or even an errant baseball can rip your siding. Patch tears in vinyl siding with duct tape. Choose tape in a color that matches your siding and apply it when the surface is dry. Smooth your repair by hand or with a rolling pin. The patch should last at least a season or two.

Tape a broken window: Before removing broken window glass, crisscross the broken pane with duct tape to hold it all together. This will ensure a shard does not fall out and cut you.

Mend a screen: Have the bugs found the tear in your window or door screen? Thwart their entrance until you make a permanent fix by covering the hole with duct tape.

Repair a trash can: Plastic trash cans that are blown over by a storm or frozen in an ice storm often split or crack along the sides. Repair the tear with duct tape. Just be sure tape over the crack both outside and inside the can.

Make a belt: Run a piece of DT through your belt loops and stick it to itself in the front. Overlap it about 4 or 5 inches and you'll still be able to peel the belt apart when nature calls.

Repair your glasses: If your glasses break while you are out in the wilderness, tape them up. You might look a bit nerdy but at least you will be able to see.

Fix your rain gear: Keep the dry stuff dry, and keep the water out, by mending your ripped rain gear with a few strips of duct tape.

Repair your clothing: Repair rips and tears in your clothing by slipping a piece of tape inside the rip, sticky side out, and carefully pressing both sides of the rip together. The repair will be barely detectable.

Add extra insulation in your boots: Make your winter boots a little bit warmer by taping the insoles with duct tape, silver side up. The shiny tape will reflect the warmth of your feet back into your boots.

Hem your pants: No time to hem your new jeans? Fake it with a strip of duct tape. The new hem will last through a few washes too.

Make handcuffs: Create handcuffs for the bad guys by taping their hands together around a tree to prevent them from becoming a danger to themselves or others.

Mark a trail: Use duct tape to blaze a trail or signal for rescue, especially if your DT is brightly colored or reflective.

Make emergency repairs on your Bug Out Vehicle: Repair leaking hoses, broken tail lights, windows that don't stay and even bullet holes with strips of duct tape.

Hang perimeter or security lights: String lights around your camp with a rope made of duct tape.

Make a disguise: Using trash bags and leaves, fashion a disguise then hold it all together with duct tape so that you can hide in plain sight.

The Final Word

For the past 70 years or so, duct tape has been considered somewhat of a miracle worker. For the fix-it-yourself types, duct tape has become indispensable and has been used for things that I am sure the original developers of the stuff never imagined.

Whose to say that it can't go on for the next 70 years?

15 Ways Duct Tape Could Save Your Life Written by [The Ready Store](#)

You can do some amazing things with duct tape! Its uses range from house repair, hunting, space travel, clothing and more! People have used duct tape for every purpose imaginable. That is why [duct tape](#) is such a versatile tool to have in your emergency supplies!

Check out 15 of these uses for duct tape that could save your life! Comment below the article to tell us what amazing uses you've found for the shiny tape!

Catch flies and mosquitos - Flies and other insects can be annoying and, at times, can spread dangerous by spreading diseases. Sometimes it's easier to get rid of flies instead of continually swatting at them. Place down strips of duct tape sticky side facing up. The flies will land on them and be trapped.

Short-term auto hose fix - Until you can get to your mechanic, duct tape is a dependable and strong repair for broken water hoses in your car. By no means is this a permanent fix. Duct tape will usually only stand up to 200 degree temperatures. Duct tape can also not be used to repair gas line leaks. The gas will dissolve the duct tape adhesive.

Temporarily hem your pants - Need to make your jeans a little shorter but don't have a thick enough needle to pierce through the material? Fake it with duct tape! Fold up the jeans to where you need them and apply the duct tape to the inside of the pant. It should last through a few washes too!

Keep a secret key - One of the great things about duct tape is that it can stick to nearly anything. You can use it to keep an extra key under your car, in your yard or some other secret place.

Roofing shingle - If you have shingles missing and you know a storm is coming, you'll need to act quickly. Place duct tape around a piece of ¼-inch plywood. Wedge the plank into place and it should repel storm water until you can get it repaired properly.

Make clothes waterproof - We've all seen people make purses and prom dresses out of duct tape. But one of the great things about duct tape is that it's water resistant. You could repair waterproof clothing and even create your own line of waterproof clothing.

Extra insulation - Make your shoes or boots a little warmer by taping the inside of the boots with duct tape. Place the shiny side of the duct tape towards your feet and it will reflect the heat back towards you!

Repair tent poles - Have a busted tent pole or fishing pole? Quickly and easily repair it with duct tape.

Make rope - Stick one edge of the duct tape to something, pull out long pieces and then start twirling. You'll create a sturdy piece of duct tape rope in no time!

Make/repair a boat - I remember in high school physics class we were assigned to make a boat purely out of cardboard and duct tape. (I'm proud to say that we passed with flying colors!) Like we've mentioned above, duct tape is a great waterproofing material. You can repair small holes and leaks in a boat.

Protect yourself from ticks - If you're out hiking, working in the yard or just have a lot of ticks around the house, strap some duct tape around your pant cuffs to keep those blood suckers out!

Duct tape really was called duck tape! Duct tape started as a solution during WWII for the military when they needed a flexible, durable, waterproof tape. It was originally used for medical purposes and colored army green but was soon transitioned into everything from sealing ammunition to repairing jeeps. It was called duck tape because it was waterproof like a duck. After the war, it got its silver color when it transitioned into heating and air conditioner repair.

Cracked toilet seat

Now, this might not be a life-or-death situation, but it can seem dire. If your toilet bowl seat is cracked, you can repair it with duct tape to give yourself a temporary relief and solution to your toilet troubles.

Homemade band-aid

Have a smaller cut but no band-aids? Simply use a piece of duct tape to strap across your sore!

Create a splint or sling

Use duct tape and a solid object to prevent your broken arm or leg from moving too much. Don't tape too tightly though, you don't want to cut off circulation. You can also make some duct tape rope with duct tape padding to create an emergency sling.

Make a spear

Tape an arrowhead or shard piece to a stick and you have a spear ready for hunting and helping you find that perfect emergency dinner.

In no particular order:

1. Mark a trail in the woods so you don't get lost.
2. Quick patch a leak in your plumbing.
3. Patch a leak in a boat.
4. Make a makeshift butterfly bandage.
5. Repair a cracked water bottle.
6. Fix a tear in your tent.
7. Tape broken fingers or toes together to immobilize the break.
8. Make a rope by twisting a length of tape together.
9. Make a belt.
10. Make a sling.
11. Patch up your ripped clothes.
12. Patch the soles of your shoes.
13. Leave someone a note. If you have a Sharpie, it is a great medium for a quick note. Or you can just tear strips to tape on a wall for a quick note.
14. Remove small splinters from your skin – yeah, it is that sticky.
15. Repair an inner tube or a punctured tire (but you have to remove the tire to patch the inside.)
16. Tape a broken window so it doesn't shatter when you try to work on it.
17. Make a drinking cup. With a little manipulation, you can make a passable emergency drinking cup. Just be sure to mesh sticky side to sticky side together so you don't have any exposed glue in your cup.
18. Create a shelter by taping together some trash bags or pieces of plastic.
19. Repair a broken fishing pole.
20. Fix your glasses.
21. Make emergency repairs on your car hoses, broken car windows, etc.
22. Add insulation to your clothes. By lining the inside of your clothing with duct tape, you get an extra (admittedly uncomfortable) layer of insulation and wind proofing.
23. Protect yourself from insect bites by taping up your leg and arm cuffs.
24. Hide objects. A bit of duct tape can easily attach a key or money in a hard to reach/see place.
25. Attach a leg splint
26. Tape wires back together after splicing them.
27. Reattach a rear view car mirror.
28. Repair a broken fan belt. It won't last long but if you can get the tension right, it can keep you going for a few more miles.
29. Build a rappelling harness.
30. Impromptu handcuffs.
31. Repair furniture rips and tears.
32. Tape paper to windows to prevent light leakage.
33. Tape plastic to all doors/windows to prevent air intrusion – good for preventing cold weather drafts and possibly in the case of a biological attack.
34. Make impromptu weapons. As an example, wrap a rock around one end and make a loop handle around another and you have a pretty deadly short range weapon.
35. Fix a vacuum cleaner hose. Speaking of vacuums, it can be a great way to patch up a defective vacuum hose.
36. Fix swimming pool pump leaks.
37. Wrap openings in your cold weather gear to keep the wind from penetrating.
38. Wrap a sprained ankle.
39. Emergency shoe laces.
40. Quick roof shingle to temporarily fix a roof leak.
41. Use as an impromptu roof rack for your car.
42. Make a quick clothes line.
43. Attach misc survival gear to the outside of your bugout bag.
44. Fix rips in your sleeping bag.
45. Fix a broken tent pole.
46. Reseal packages of food.

47. Use as impromptu fly paper to catch annoying flies.
48. Fix screening.
49. Repair a trash can.
50. Make a sheath for your knife.

1. Reseal containers of food: Use duct tape to seal up partially opened packages of food. Fold the duct tape over the top of the package, sealing it tight. This also works for cans; just fashion a lid out of duct tape. Warning: this will not prevent the spread of bacteria, so follow food safety guidelines.

2. Stop the leak from a cracked water bottle or a pierced hydration bladder. Duct tape can do the job. Simply dry the surface of the bottle or bag before you try to tape your patch in place, as most forms of duct tape will not stick to wet surfaces. You can also wrap plastic water bottles with duct tape for better insulation as well as to prevent cracks and leaks.

3. Survival arrow fletching. Tear off a few 5-inch pieces, and a long edge of one piece to the arrow shaft, fold the tape lengthwise, and stick the other long edge of that piece to the arrow. Repeat this process one or two more times; trim the vanes to shape with your knife; and you will have a serviceable arrow fletching.

4. Hide your valuables. For smaller items, use duct tape to conceal your items from prying eyes under rocks, or inside a hollow tree. At home, hide your smaller preps under the surface of your kitchen or bathroom counter, affixing it firmly with duct tape. Be sure to remember where you left it, however.

5. DIY Flypaper: Roll off a few foot-long strips of duct tape, hanging them from the top inside roof of your tent, or from your cabin rafters. No mess, no stress, and no nasty chemicals, either. Plus, you will have some extra bits of protein gathering for your meal if there is no other food available.

6. Create butterfly bandages. Cutting two small strips of DT, add a smaller strip across their centers (sticky side to sticky side) to create a makeshift butterfly suture.

7. Patch a hole in canoe. Using a solid piece of bark, metal or plastic as a patch, seal it firmly on both sides with duct tape, making an interweaving pattern for added strength.

8. Stabilize a broken ankle or leg with ample splint material, padding and duct tape. Pad the joining of a forked branch with some cloth and duct tape to fashion a quick crutch to go with your splint. If you trip and sprain your ankle, wrap the ankle with duct tape to give it some support.

9. Hang perimeter lights: String glow sticks around your camp with a duct tape rope, or hang them from tree branches.

10. DIY belt: Don't let sagging pants pull you down as you bug-out. Run a strip of duct tape through your belt loops, and cinch up those pants with a final tug, securing the duct tape to itself. It will still come apart easily enough when necessity strikes.

11. First aid sling. Fold a length of DT down the center, so that it is half the width and no longer exposes the adhesive side. Bring it into a large loop which you can comfortably hang from the back of your neck down to your chest, and rest your injured arm inside. Add additional lengths to stabilize it for more protection.

12. Leave a waterproof note. Write on it with a Sharpie, or use strips to form letters.

13. Emergency restraints. If someone poses as danger to you and your group, duct tape their hands together around a tree until a more permanent solution can be decided.

14. Mend rips and tears in your clothing by slipping a piece of tape inside the rip, sticky side out, and carefully pressing both sides of the rip together. The repair will be barely detectable. You can also hem your pants with a strip of duct tape. The new hem will last through a few washes too.

15. Repair your glasses. If the frames break, a thin strip of duct tape will keep them together. Young Harry Potter approves of this method.

16. Fashion a shelter. Using trash bags and some duct tape, or even better, taping two survival blankets together, you can create a roof for your lean-to, a sleeping bag cover, or a wind break.

17. Attach survival gear. Tape a spark rod to the side of your knife sheath, and you'll always have a back-up fire source.

18. Insulate in your boots: Make your winter boots a little bit warmer by taping the insoles with duct tape, silver side up. The shiny tape will reflect the warmth of your feet back into your boots.

19. Make a rope. Twist one or several lengths of duct tape into a cord or rope. This can be used as clothesline, as well.

20. Make a hat. Protect your head from the sun or loss of heat in the winter by forming a hat using multiple strips of duct tape. Get creative!

21. Weatherize your clothes: Lining the outside of your coat and pants thoroughly with duct tape may look tacky, but it will effectively make it water resistant and keep you dry.

22. Wrap bandages. Placing a sterile dressing such as medical gauze over your wound, strap it in place with duct tape.

23. Repair your rain gear. Keep the dry stuff dry by mending your ripped rain gear with a few strips, inside and out.

24. Make a drinking cup. Some creative folding and sticking can result in a cup you can drink from.

25. Hurricane or Pandemic seal. Create a quarantine room with duct tape and plastic sheets around windows and doors. Seal or strengthen windows for hurricanes (or home defense) with duct tape by making large X shapes to help contain shards of broken glass.
26. Make a spear. Cut a branch about 3 -6 feet long, and strap your knife to it with duct tape, and you have a spear for hunting, fishing, or defense.
27. Insta-sheath. Make a sheath for your knife out of duct tape – make sure to double stick the tape so the inside around the knife does not stick to the blade.
28. Blister protection. Cover the affected area with a bit of cotton gauze, and tape over the cotton. Make sure that the duct tape fully covers the cotton and does not touch the blister.
29. Mark your trail. Tape strips to branches or bushes at chest height to leave a trail or signal for rescue, especially if your DT is brightly colored or reflective.
30. Make emergency repairs on your Bug Out Vehicle. Patch up leaking hoses, seal windows that won't stay up and cover bullet holes with strips of duct tape.
31. Keep the stuffing in your goose-down sleeping bag. All that warm insulation will quickly become useless if its scattered all over the floor. Simple repair: patch the hole with duct tape.
32. Tent Repair: A broken zipper could leave your tent door flapping in the wind, leaving you exposed. Seal the door shut, and keep the critters out. Have a hole in the tent fabric? Cover the hole with a patch; for double protection mirror the patch inside the tent. You'll keep insects and weather where they belong.
33. Broken tent pole or fishing pole? No problem. Create a splint by taping a stick to the broken area of your tent pole or fishing rod, and you will be able to use it until you are able to replace it with another.

TRASH TO TREASURE

Emergency Preparedness does not have to be expensive.
Check out all these amazing alternative uses for a black garbage bag. Heavy duty and Contractor bags are even better.

Waterproof Shoes by Covering with Bag and Tying Around the Ankle

Emergency Shelter (with multiples)

Set Up as a Rain Catcher

Use as a Poncho

Fill with Leaves and Climb In for Emergency Sleeping Bag (or sleep on top to use as mattress – keeping the cold ground from sucking the heat out of you)

Store Food In

Use as a Sling

Use as a Swimming Suit so You Keep Clothing Dry (how stylish)

Store Garbage (duh)

Store Toilet Paper and other Paper Supplies to Keep Dry

Use as a Windbreaker

Fill with Water for Storage (short term)

Use as Tent Floor/Ground Cloth

Tape Edges of Bag to the Edges of Your Window Frame to Blackout Windows (must be heavy duty to shield light)

Use as a Backpack

Use to Create Shade from Sun

Use as Porta-Sink

Fill with Water, Place in a Ditch then Add Hot Stones to Sterilize Water for Drinking (stones need to be hot enough to boil the water)

Great Bartering Item

Use them as Sterile Surface to Prepare Food

Use to Wash Cloth<:1s In

Mix Ingredients for Cooking In It

Seal Off Room with Multiple Bags and Tape to Quarantine an Ill Person

Use as Diapers (line with toilet paper)

Stuff Inside Your Clothing for Insulation

Turn Off Water and Line Toilets with Bags (or line 5 gallon buckets)

Store Newspaper for Future Use as Fire Stailer (keeping it dry)

Use for Concealment by Wearing Over Clothes at Night (black garbage bags)

Cover Wounds with Gauze and Wrap with Strips of Garbage Bag

Fill with Water, Tie to a Tree Branch and Poke Small Holes into the Bottom -You've
Got an Emergency Shower

Use as Disposable Gloves for Cleaning

Use as a Tourniquet

Wrap Around Cloth Gloves to Make Waterproof

Use as a Sun Jacket

Make-Shift Sunglasses -Cut a Strip with Two Slits for Your Eyes and Tie Around Your
Face

Use as Compression Bandage

Use as Emergency Signal

Fill with Cold Water and Use as Cold Compress for Injuries (same can be said with hot
WJter)

Use as Ties for Splints

While Wearing Socks, Step Into Two Layers of Bags to Use as Shoes

Uses – Garbage Bags 37 Uses

<http://urbansurvivalsite.com/37-prepper-uses-for-trash-bags/>

If you're a prepper, you almost can't have too many trash bags. In a long-term disaster with no garbage collection or utilities, trash bags will be essential for sanitation. But that's not the only reason to stock up on them. As with [several other items](#), there many things you can do with trash bags. Plus, they take up very little space, they're lightweight, and they don't cost much.

For many of the uses listed below, the standard 13-gallon bags most people use in their kitchens will be fine. However, you should definitely get some [large contractor bags](#). They are MUCH harder to tear, which is very important if you're gathering water, patching leaks, building a raft, etc. Also make sure you have some [duct tape](#) and [paracord](#). Now on to the list.

- 1. Gather Things.** Let's get the most obvious one out of the way first. Trash bags are great for gathering things like fruit, vegetables, cans, bottles, or any other small items that could be useful.
- 2. Keep Supplies Dry.** Put your clothes, food, water-sensitive gear, etc. in a trash bag to keep them protected from the rain. You could also seal your things in a trash bag while crossing a river.
- 3. Keep Your Feet Dry.** If you're crossing a river or walking through a wet area, step into a couple trash bags and tie them shut against your shins. This will keep your shoes dry.
- 4. Keep You Dry.** Trash bags make great ponchos. Just cut holes for your head and arms and put it on like a shirt. You could also lay trash bags on the ground where you sleep to keep moisture from the ground at bay.
- 5. Waterproof Bandages.** After bandaging a wound, cut out an appropriate size piece of a trash bag and tape it over the bandage. This will keep it from getting dirty or wet.
- 6. Make a Tourniquet.** If you don't have a belt or rope or anything else, twist up a trash bag and use that instead. It's not ideal, but it could still save someone's life.
- 7. Tie a Splint.** You can also use trash bags to tie a splint in place. However, you may have to use several of them to make sure it's sturdy.
- 8. Treat Injuries.** If someone has a soft tissue injury with pain and inflammation, fill a trash bag with snow or ice, tie it shut, and use it as a cold compress.
- 9. Make a Sling.** As long as the bag is large enough, it will work just fine. The method is the exact same as it would be if you used a large piece of cloth. [Follow this link](#) to learn how.
- 10. Collect Rainwater.** Dig a hole in the ground and put the trash bag inside it. Secure the edges of the bag in place with heavy rocks, then wait for it to start raining.
- 11. Get Water from Trees.** Put a rock in a clear trash bag and tie bags over the ends of branches with lots of leaves on it. The sun will draw water from the leaves and it will pool around the rock. [Learn more.](#)
- 12. Make a Solar Still.** These don't collect much water, but they're better than nothing if you're desperate. [Here's a video](#) of someone who made a solar still using a black trash bag.
- 13. Haul Water.** Gather water and haul it back to your camp. You'll definitely want the contractor bags for this so you don't lose all your water because of a tear.
- 14. Store Food & Water.** If you don't have any other type of container, you could store some water in trash bags. Or you could line water storage containers with trash bags to keep the water safer.
- 15. Take a Shower.** Fill a black trash bag with water and hang it in the sunlight for a few hours. Once the water is warm, poke some holes in the bottom of the bag and you can have a warm shower.
- 16. Stay Clean.** If butchering an animal, cleaning up waste, helping someone who is bleeding, gardening, etc. You can use a large trash bag as an apron and use smaller pieces as gloves.
- 17. Prevent Hypothermia.** If temperatures are low, you can tape trash bags around your legs, arms, and torso for some makeshift thermal underwear that will help retain your body heat.
- 18. Block the Sun.** If you've been outside for a while and there's no shade, you can tape together a few trash bags, stretch them out, and tie them to a tree for a temporary shade.
- 19. Build a Shelter.** Use branches, cordage and a 55-gallon trash bag. [Here's how.](#) This takes much less space in your bag than a tent or tarp. Cut it open, wrap stones in each corner for strength.

20. Stay Warm. Cut open the sealed end of a trash bag and use duct tape to attach it to the open end of another bag. Then use it like you would a sleeping bag. It will hold in your body heat and help you stay warm.

21. Make a Mattress. Fill several trash bags with leaves, hay, or some other kind of stuffing and flatten them out to form a mattress. It's not ideal, but it's better than sleeping on the ground.

22. Make a Pillow. Blow some air into a trash bag and tie it shut to make a nice pillow. Again, this is not ideal, but at least you won't get a crick in your neck from sleeping without a pillow.

23. Make a Toilet. As I said in my [article about buckets](#), you can put some kitty litter in a trash bag, put the bag in a bucket, and use it as a portable toilet.

24. Wash Clothes. Put clothes in a trash bag, add warm water and soap. Shake the trash bag for a while, then drain the soapy water. Add some plain water and repeat the process to rinse the clothes.

25. Quarantine the Sick. It could become necessary to quarantine someone who is contagious. Trash bags and duct can be used to seal off a room. [Read this](#) for more information.

26. Black Out Your Windows. If you're concerned about drawing attention during a power outage, tape black trash bags over your windows so other people won't see that you have lights in your home.

27. Fix Leaks. If you have a leak in the roof or a container or anywhere water is getting through, trash bags can temporarily fix the problem.

28. Build a Raft. Some branches, cordage, and trash bags full of air can make a raft that can hold at least one person. Watch [this video](#) to see exactly how it's done.

29. Stay Afloat. If you don't have time to build a raft, you could at least use a single trash bag full of air to keep yourself from sinking in deep water. Only do this as a last resort.

30. Grow Plants. Put clear trash bags over plants to protect them on freezing nights, keep them moist, or block the wind. Prop them up with some sticks so they don't touch your plants, and don't leave them on all the time.

31. Stop Weeds. Line your garden with trash bags to stop weeds from growing. All you need are some heavy rocks to keep them from blowing away.

32. Catch Fish. Poke lots of holes in a trash bag to create a makeshift net, then stand in the middle of a river and catch fish as they come along.

33. Protect Food. Double or triple bag your food to keep bugs out. To protect it from bears and many other wild animals, hang the bag high in a tree.

34. Eat Food. Trash bags can be stretched over a flat surface and used as a plate. Another option is to put a bag in a hat or bucket and use it as a bowl.

35. Make a Rope. You can cut trash bags into long strips and braid them together to make a rope. You might be surprised by how sturdy it is.

36. Mark a Trail. Cut white trash bags into strips and tie them to trees or whatever else you can find. As long as each one is within visual range of another, you or others will be able to follow a trail without getting lost.

37. Signal for Help. A white trash bag could be used as a flag you can wave back and forth. Use several rocks and black trash bags to spell SOS in large letters that can be seen from the sky.

WATERPROOF SHOES - COVERING WITH BAG AND TY AROUND THE ANKLE

FILL WITH LEAVES AND CLIMB IN FOR EMERGENCY SLEEPING BAG, OR SLEEP ON TOP TO USE AS MATTRESS
-KEEPING THE COLD GROUND FROM SUCKING THE HEAT OUT OF YOU, OR USE AS A BIG BLANKET.

USE AS A SWIM SUIT SO YOU KEEP CLOTHING DRY (HOW STYLISH)

STORE TOILET PAPER AND OTHER PAPER SUPPLIES TO KEEP DRY

TENT FLOOR/GROUND CLOTH

BLACKOUT WINDOWS (MUST BE HEAVY DUTY TO SHIELD LIGHT)

BACKPACK

CREATE SHADE FROM SUN

PORTA-SINK

FILL WITH WATER, PLACE IN A DITCH THEN ADD HOT STONES TO STERILIZE.WATER FOR DRINKING
(STONES NEED TO BE HOT ENOUGH TO BOIL THE WATER)

Uses - 550 Paracord (get mil spec only):

Paracord is like the duct tape of the fiber world. Paracord is nylon rope that was originally used in parachutes in World War II, which is where the name came from. Now it is a versatile utility cording that is still used extensively in the military, but is also gaining in popularity for personal use. Military-grade paracord is so useful that it deserves a Spin so those without military connections can learn about and make use of this great material. Military-grade paracord comes in six different types. We're going to focus on the best quality one that is most readily available to civilians: a variation of the military Type III paracord frequently called Mil-spec 550 paracord. Construction of 550 paracord is done by taking seven two-ply threads of nylon and wrapping them in a shell braided from 32 nylon strands. This composite construction gives paracord a tensile strength of 550 pounds (the outer sheath with the seven internal threads removed has a tensile strength of 200 pounds). Paracord is mildew and rot resistant, and it's only 1/8" thick, making it great for a variety of uses.

Strength (In just a 1/8 inch diameter cord, an incredible breaking strength of 550 lbs.)

Durability (It can be used over and over again while remaining flexible and durable)

Light Weight (The Mil specification requires that 225 feet of cord weigh 1 pound or less)

Water and Mildew Resistant (Outside elements are not a problem and it will dry very quickly)

Inner Strands (The unique ability to remove the inner strands make this cord extremely versatile)

There are many copies in the civilian market today but true military grade cord will be designated MIL-C-5040 Type III and rated for 550 pounds. Genuine MIL-SPEC MIL-C-5040 Type III Paracord has 7 inner yarns, each made up of 3 strands. Commercial/Civilian 550 paracord imitations might not have 7 inner yarns or the inner yarns might not have 3 strands each. *"According to the actual Mil-C-5040 government document 550 type III Paracord should be made up of between 7 and 9 strands and each strand shall be 3-ply."* Having said that, much of the paracord on the civilian market is still VERY good. Just be sure that there are 7 inner yarns (some have 5). It is apparently fairly difficult to find the real Mil-spec paracord with 7-inner yarns AND with each yarn consisting of 3-ply (3-strands) (most are 2-ply, which is still very good for most all purposes).

Paracord Uses:

snares & traps: deadfall trap, net trap, bow trap, box trap, fish trap, booby trap

perimeter alarm, warning system

hoist (double strength using winch knot)

ladder; using prusik knots

sandal straps, boot laces

improvised back pack

fishing nets, fishing line (using smaller inner strands), trot line

hammock, using a strong cloth in a boat shape

making fishing lures, gill net

emergency sutures, tourniquet; stitches after boiling

improvised stump vise

stretcher construction

dog leash

sunglasses strap

clothes line

trip wires

securing bone hooks

sewing thread

securing items and gear

hanging food away from animals

trip wire

friction fire bowdrill

pump fire drill (flywheel, crossbar; downward motion rewinds crossbar)

pump hole drill

buck saw (with saw blade)

firewood carrier

camp furniture

lashing for bridges, towers, rope bridge

shelter construction

spear making (attach knife to long pole)

tool repair

sling (as in David & Goliath) for rock throwing

garrote

belt
handcuffs and hogtie
bucket extension for gathering water
bow and arrow
nunchucks
bola
dental floss
horse halter, bridle
dog collar, dog harness
rifle sling (single point; double point)
canteen/bottle holder
net bags
pot holder
headband, hat band
adjustable hanging tree chair
tool and handle wraps/grips
hat band
measurement guide
plumb guide
safety line for dark areas
dog run
horse hitching line
cutting tool (friction saw)
swing a lightstick for emergency signaling

Here are some examples of the uses of paracord, many of which focus on its use as a tool to help you survive if you get lost hiking, or otherwise find yourself in a survival situation:

- 1) Bracelets, belts, and lanyards: Braiding objects with paracord that you have on you all the time is a great way to keep a little safety around your waist or wrist. If needed, say to tie down a load on the roof of your car, all you need to do is unweave the bracelet and voila! You are ready for the task at hand! This is especially useful for camping and hiking, where you can wear some safety on you so it doesn't take up room in your pack.
- 2) Dog collars and leashes: You can braid great custom dog leashes and collars out of paracord; paracord's strength and rot-resistance make it ideal for this purpose.
- 3) A saw: That's right! By pulling on a length of paracord fast enough to create actionable friction, you can saw some things in half, such as two-inch wide tubular webbing! Check out this brief video from Estela Wilderness Education, LLC for a demonstration.
- 4) Catching food: Paracord is so versatile it can be used to catch animal food, big or small. You can cut a length of paracord and remove one of the internal two-ply threads for use as fishing line, or use the in-tact cord for animal snares and traps.
- 5) Useful thread: The internal threads are also thin enough to sew on loose buttons or torn seams in clothing or tents, and even as dental floss.
- 6) Camp construction and utility: In any sort of camping situation (intended or not) paracord has too many uses to mention. Because of its strength and rot resistance, it can be used for things like pole lashing, pulling logs, hoisting food into trees for protection, and for guy strings and shelter ridge lines for tents or temporary shelters.
- 7) Making fire: Since paracord itself is nylon it won't burn for you but it does catch heat so it can be used as tinder to light larger pieces of kindling. And, you can use paracord as the necessary string in a bow-drill, a very basic and primitive way to make fire if needed. Here's information on making and using a bow drill from Nature Skills.
- 8) Medical emergencies: In the unfortunate instance that you get hurt while camping or hiking, paracord can literally save your life or the life of a friend. It can be used as a tourniquet, a sling, or to lash splints together on a broken limb. You can even string the paracord between two sapling trunks to make a stretcher of sorts.
- 9) Automobile fix: No, really! You can take 550 paracord and use it as a temporary replacement for something like a fan belt. Just be sure to knot the cord every few inches, otherwise the slippery nature of the cord will cause it to slip off.
- 10) Rappelling: No, paracord is not great as a regular climbing rope, but in an emergency situation you can rappel or otherwise haul your body weight with 550 paracord.
- 11) Woven items: With enough skill you can weave things from paracord such as water bottle holders, fishing nets, bird nets, or other traps.
- 12) Pulley systems: A good block and tackle pulley system can allow you to haul and lift weights much heavier than you could without pulley assistance; paracord is great in pulleys.

13) Weaving rope: If paracord isn't strong enough for you, you can use it to braid even stronger rope for hauling or pulley purposes, such as to remove a stuck vehicle. This is an option if you are in a situation where you don't have proper rope available.

This paracord is ideal for camping, boating, crabbing, indoor or outdoor clothesline, halyard line, garden line & any other uses requiring great strength & durability. Contains Seven (7) Removable Inner Strands that can be used for fishing line, sewing thread, tripwire, nets, traps and other emergency +/- survival situations. Paracord is a lightweight nylon kernmantle rope originally used in the suspension lines of US parachutes during World War II. Once in the field, paratroopers found this cord useful for many other tasks. It is now used as a general purpose utility cord by both military personnel and civilians. This versatile cord was even used by astronauts during STS-82, the second Space Shuttle mission to repair the Hubble Space Telescope.[1]The braided sheath has a high number of interwoven strands for its size, giving it a relatively smooth texture. The all nylon construction makes paracord fairly elastic; depending on the application this can be either an asset or a liability. Mil Spec 550 Para Cord is made to Mil-C-5040 specifications (7-strand core). This para cord is trusted and used by our armed forces. Military grade 550 paracord rope known as Mil-C-5040 Type 3 is made of nylon so that it dries quickly and is mildew resistant. It is 1/8 inch in diameter and is rated for 550 lbs. A quote from the manufacturer about this item: "We sell you (& have always sold you) 550 Paracord which is the commercial version of the mil-spec Mil-C-5040 cord. Your 100' & 50' coil label refers to it as "military style"- which is a common description, but can be mis-interpreted. We also make the mil-spec cord & make it to the military spec & sell most of that to the military. However, some of it is also sold in the commercial market. It also tests 550 lbs, but is made from more expensive yarns & therefore is a higher priced item. When we are selling either, we always clearly label it either 550 Cord or Mil-C-5040 Cord. This is a problem that is not limited to just us. This confusion is experienced by all of our competitors that make either of the cords too. The real shame is that not all of our competitors produce a quality commercial cord that tests 550 lbs. Some use inferior raw materials & just try to undersell everyone else." - See more at: <http://www.campingsurvival.com/gltoofgrpa101.html#sthash.gcpXGpvO.dpuf>

Uses - Uses for a poncho (military spec is best) or tarp:

Shelter – rain, sun, bug protection, wind, cold

Pillow

Seat cushion

Backpack – using Hobo pack method, or roll up Tootsie Roll method

Tent and/or ground cloth to sleep on

Concealment during sleeping, travelling, watching

Concealment of firearms & hand movements

Water collection – rainwater, making a trough,

Water sterilization – dig a hole, line it, place 3 small rocks and water inside, then place a very hot rock in the water resting on the 3 small rocks (to avoid burning a hole in the tarp)

Food collection – foraging

Fire kindling collection – foraging

Hunting – spring trap, hole trap

Animal trapping on land, with bait and cordage

Animal trapping under water, with bait and cordage

Stretcher for sick or injured

Arrest/detain someone - roll them up (not too tight) with their arms down, and tie a cord/rope around it

Self defense – arm padding

G.I. Poncho One of the important pieces of field gear . . . **By Richard B. McSwain**

ONE OF THE most important (and least talked about) pieces of field gear issued to today's combat troops is the poncho with liner. Aside from its obvious use as a rain garment of unparalleled usefulness, it can serve its owner in many different and varied ways. It will not only **keep you dry** in a hurricane, but your gear as well. It can be donned quickly and fits just as well over a full back pack as it does without, and you can easily keep your rifle and ammo dry underneath. The employment of a **weapon from underneath** a poncho can present a few problems, but they are really minor when compared to the benefit of a dry weapon drawn from **concealment**. If you are carrying a handgun or a shotgun, you can fire from underneath the poncho, a la Clint Eastwood, and if a little effort is used to stand sideways to the target and extend the barrel past the edge of the poncho, the poncho will receive no more damage than a few powder burns. If you have a rifle, the easiest way to employ it is to firmly hold the fore end in your left hand, extend your left arm fully, with the rifle at a 90 degree angle to the arm and with the muzzle pointing skyward. Then with a simple twist of the left wrist, you can bring the butt of the rifle to your right shoulder and the trigger to your waiting right hand (much easier to do than explain). You will find that the liner has no hole or hood for your head, like the rainproof shell does. I have seen people in the field cut holes in them, but that is a real waste, and in little time the hole will fray and the batting will pull out leaving you with a worthless rag. The best way to wear the liner in cold wet weather is to hold it long ways with a corner in each hand and flip it over your head so that it lays on your back like a cape. Pull the corners in your hands down over.

You can also use the poncho and liner as an improvised **sleeping bag**. Lay the poncho flat on the ground and spread the liner out on top of it. Tie all of the liner's fasteners to the corresponding grommets in the poncho. Then fold the poncho in half with the liner inside and snap the snaps along the bottom and long edge of the poncho, and also tie the liners fasteners together. Don't forget to leave the top open so you can get inside. Do not attempt to tape or seal the open seams along the side of the poncho. The reason for this is that the poncho is waterproof and if adequate ventilation is not provided, you will wake up to a very wet sleeping bag due to condensation of body moisture. This makes a very comfortable sleeping bag and will keep you warm down to about 40 degrees F.

To pitch the **tent**, snap together two ponchos, cut two trees and make a frame & stakes. Cut two poles about four feet long, and drive them about a foot into the ground about six and a half feet apart. Drive a stake about three feet in front of and in line with the front upright. Tie one end of a line 15 feet long or more to the stake, tie it to the first upright with a couple of half hitches, tie it to the second upright, and then tie

Throw the snapped-together ponchos over the frame and stake down the edges. Use your liners as blankets or sleeping bags and sleep in sheltered comfort. You could also string the ridge line between two trees or other objects, and weight the sides down rather than use stakes if there were none available.

The poncho can be used as a **tarp, equipment cover, solar still, sun shade, stretcher, and even for an equipment or personnel raft**. To use it as a raft for keeping equipment dry when crossing deep water, you should lay the poncho out flat, and stack cut brush and branches on one side of it. Then fold the poncho over the branches and snap all the snaps together with their corresponding snaps and lace a line through all the grommets. If you use your shoulders until they extend below your wrist in the front. Secure the liner around your waist with a belt or piece of line, and then put on the poncho as usual. During cold weather, you will find the poncho and liner quite warm, and that it breaks the wind very effectively. Remember, a blanket worn poncho style kept many all Indian brave warm well before the use of down and synthetic insulation. the care in distributing your load this type of raft will keep 10 to 35 pounds of gear well above the water.

The poncho and liner are some of your most useful and valuable field equipment. Take care of it and it will take care of you. It's small, lightweight, and fits easily into the trunk of a car.

Uses – Uses for Zip Ties:

Cheap, multi-purpose, small, fast, easy, lightweight
Reusable if cut efficiently
Don't require knot tying experience
Can be fastened together to lengthen as needed

Identification(s) – wristbands, tool/equipment ID, subdued messages

Barter

Repairs

Make tools

Make weapons

Shelter making; secure limbs and/or a pole frame together

Secure tarps, tents

Restraint, handcuffs, ankle cuffs, hog tie to waistband, binding

Tamper proof something

Tamper evidence of something

Snares

Use to attach a snare just about anywhere, gives flexibility with this trapping method.

Hold a splint in place or a makeshift sling; last resort; *beware of swelling potential*

Keep plants upright

Childproof your home

Fix clothing, shoes, zipper pulls

Ride your bike safely in the snow (like tire chains)

Trail markers

Emergency shelter building with a tarp or tent

Repair backpacks, straps, tents

Close pant legs around the ankles to protect against ticks, snakebites, and mosquitoes.

Compaction - tightly roll a clothing together; secure the roll with a zip tie.