

DISASTER SUPPLIES KIT

Earthquakes, floods, and other disasters can seriously disrupt normal life. Services may not be available, transportation may be cut off, and roads may be blocked. In some cases, you may be forced to evacuate. Be ready to respond to any situation by assembling and maintaining a Disaster Supplies Kit.

WATER

Plan on one gallon of water per person per day.

Store water in plastic containers such as soft drink bottles.

Avoid using containers that will decompose or break, such as mason jars or glass bottles.

Use water for health purposes.

Because water is so important to human survival, it should never be withheld. Drink at least two quarts per day, as long as supplies last, and look for alternative sources.

FOOD

Store at least a three-day supply of nonperishable food.

Choose foods that require no refrigeration, cooking, or preparation and are compact and lightweight. If food must be cooked, include a can of sterno.

Food suggestions:

- Ready-to-eat canned meats, fruits, and vegetables
- Canned juices, milk, soup (if powdered, store extra water)
- Staples — sugar, salt, pepper
- High energy foods — peanut butter, jelly, crackers, nuts, health food bars, trail mix

- Comfort foods — cookies, hard candy, sweetened cereals
- Vitamins

Container

Store the supplies in an easy-to-carry object such as a large covered trash container, camping backpack, or a duffle bag.

FIRST AID

Have two first aid kits.

Keep a complete first aid kit in your home and car.

Items to include:

- Sterile adhesive bandages in assorted sizes
- 2-inch sterile gauze pads (4-6)
- 4-inch sterile gauze pads
- Hypoallergenic adhesive tape
- Triangular bandages (3)
- 2-inch sterile roller bandages (3 rolls)
- 3-inch sterile roller bandages (3 rolls)
- Scissors
- Tweezers

- Needles
- Moistened towelettes
- Antiseptic
- Thermometer
- Tongue blades (2)
- Tube of petroleum jelly or other lubricant
- Assorted sizes of safety pins
- Cleansing agent (soap)
- Latex gloves (2 pair)
- Sunscreen
- Aspirin or non-aspirin pain reliever
- Antidiarrhea medication
- Antacid (for stomach upset)
- Syrup of ipecac (use to induce vomiting if advised by the Poison Control Center)
- Laxative
- Activated charcoal (use if advised by Poison Control Center)

Contact your local American Red Cross chapter to obtain a basic first aid textbook.

SUPPLIES & TOOLS

- Emergency preparedness manual
- Battery-operated radio and extra batteries
- Flashlight and extra batteries
- Nonelectric can opener and utility knife
- Fire extinguisher, small canister, A-B-C type
- Tube tent
- Pliers
- Tape
- Compass
- Matches in a waterproof container
- Aluminum foil
- Plastic storage containers
- Signal flares
- Paper and pencils
- Needles and thread
- Medicine dropper
- Shut-off wrench, to turn off household gas or water
- Whistle
- Plastic sheeting

CLOTHING & BEDDING

Include at least one complete change of clothing and footwear per person.

- Sturdy shoes or work boots
- Rain gear
- One blanket or sleeping bag per person
- Hat and gloves
- Thermal underwear
- Sunglasses

SANITATION

- Toilet paper and towelettes
- Soap or liquid detergent
- Feminine supplies
- Personal items — shampoo, deodorant, toothpaste, toothbrushes, comb and brush, lip balm
- Small shovel for digging an expedient latrine
- Plastic garbage bags and ties
- Plastic bucket with tight lid
- Disinfectant
- Household chlorine bleach

SPECIAL ITEMS

Include items for household members with special needs, such as infants, elderly, or disabled individuals.

Babies

- Formula
- Diapers
- Bottles
- Powdered milk
- Medications

Elderly People

- Heart and high blood pressure medications
- Insulin
- Prescription drugs
- Denture needs

Include favorite entertainment items:

- Coloring books and crayons
- Games
- Books

IMPORTANT DOCUMENTS

Keep these records in a waterproof container:

- Will, insurance policies, contracts, deeds, and stocks and bonds
- Passport, Social Security cards, immunization records
- Savings and checking account numbers
- Credit card account numbers and companies
- Inventory of valuable household goods and important telephone numbers
- Family records (birth, marriage, death certificates)

Storage Suggestions

Store the kit in a safe, convenient place known to all family members. If possible, it should be a cool, dry, dark location. Keep a smaller version of your Disaster Supplies Kit in the trunk of your car. Keep items, or groups of items, in waterproof and air-tight plastic bags. Change the water supply every six months so it stays fresh. Rotate the food every six months. Replace batteries often. Ask your doctor or pharmacist about the proper procedure for storing prescription medications.