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Top 10 Outdoor Survival Tools

By Aaron Rowe March 17, 2008 | 1:03:44 AM Categories: [Survival](#)

Many outdoor enthusiasts love to agonize over what belongs in their survival kit. Here are the supplies that we think belong in a small pack for quick trips into the wilderness. Of course, a GPS unit and a satellite phone would be handy, but this collection is meant to be a cheap backup for times when those items are damaged or inaccessible.

10. High-Calorie Protein Bars

Hunting and fishing may be more trouble than they are worth. You may burn more calories in search of prey than you would gain from eating their flesh. Save yourself from some agony by packing a few snacks.

9. Flashlight

Flashlights can be seen by search and rescue teams from a great distance. They are a great way to attract attention to yourself and could come in handy if you have trouble making a fire.

8. Whistle

When you are lost in the woods, signaling for help should be a high priority. Blowing a whistle periodically requires much less energy than yelling and the high pitch sound may travel further.

7. Backpacker Hammock

In extremely hot or cold environments, protecting yourself from the elements is half the battle. You can always disassemble it to construct a more elaborate shelter.

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6. Water Purification Supplies

Drinking brackish water can do more harm than good. By properly filtering and decontaminating your beverages, you can avoid getting in even more trouble.

5. Plastic Trash Bag

Thin and light, they are worth their weight in gold and have a plethora of uses. Use them to catch rain, cut three holes to improvise a rain poncho, or windproof your shelter. Bring several of them. Trash compactor bags are the sturdiest.

4. First-Aid Kit

Medical emergencies are an even bigger deal than being lost. Your kit should contain items to deal with serious injuries -- not just cuts and scrapes. Pack some Quick Clot or Celox to deal with serious bleeding, tweezers, a needle and thread, antibiotic cream, a bit of sunblock, and any special medications that you may need.

3. Metal Cup or Can

Staying hydrated is far more important than finding food. With a metal container, you have the option of boiling the water to kill nasty microbes.

2. Butane Lighter and Tinder

Starting fires with a [mischmetal flint](#) in a dry climate is easy, but in wet weather, you may need a cigarette lighter and some flammable helpers to get your fire going. Cotton balls covered in wax, solid backpacking stove tablets, or a flask of Bacardi 151 are all viable options.

1. Knife

Never leave home without one. A sturdy blade is essential for building shelters, preparing food, making campfires and countless other tasks.

Honorable Mention

Do you disagree with us? Now is your chance to speak up. What do you think belongs in a survival kit? Vote for each item that you agree with by clicking on the up arrows or submit items that we have overlooked.

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