



# Outdoor Survival Gear Checklist

The sheer number of survival gears available can be overwhelming, leading you to believe that you need to buy a multitude of products. However, the truth is that with just a few smart purchases, you can position yourself well to handle any unforeseen challenges that may come your way. For example, a knife, first aid kit, headlamp, water filtration system, tarp, tent, and navigation tools are some of the most essential survival gear. However, the list may vary depending on whether you're going for a short-length wilderness or a more extended survival situation.

## Wilderness Survival Kit List

When preparing for outdoor adventures, whether it's a short trip or an extended journey, there are seven crucial types of items that form the foundation of your wilderness survival kit. Within these categories, here are some options you can consider for your checklist:

### **1. Safety and Multi-Purpose Tools**

- Survival Swiss/army knife
- Pliers
- Stainless steel blade
- Tactical pen
- Trekking Poles
- Fishing line and fishing lures in a small container.
- Pepper Spray
- Bear Spray

### **2. Navigation and Illumination Survival Gear**

- Crank-Up Radio
- LED Flashlight
- Head Lamp

- Tactical Pen
- Small Mirror
- Waterproof Planning Map
- Compass
- GPS Device
- Two sets of extra batteries
- Emergency candles

### **3. First Aid Kit**

- Band-aids
- Gauze
- Antiseptic wipes
- Antibiotic ointment

### **4. Clean water**

- Water purification tablets
- Large stainless steel
- Pump filter

### **5. Cordage and Tape**

- Duct tape
- 200 feet of Paracord
- 100 yards of monofilament fishing line
- Poly-cord rope (50-100 feet)
- Variety of sizes of Ziploc bags

### **6. Fire-Starting Kit**

- Flint or magnesium fire starter
- Water-resistant matches
- Emergency tinder
- Magnifying glass

### **7. Keeping Warm**

- Space blanket
- Large tarp
- Large rain poncho
- Wool blanket

How Do You Pack for the Wilderness?

Now that you've assembled an assortment of supplies and tools, it's essential to contain them in a sensible and efficient way. The right container ensures your gear stays organized and protected during your outdoor adventures. Here are some options to consider:

## Backpacks: Organized Capacity

Backpacks offer generous storage capacity, making them ideal for keeping all your gear in one place. They allow you to stay organized and have quick access to items when needed. However, their larger size and bulkiness may hinder your agility while traversing through challenging terrain. To determine the best fit for you, it's essential to understand your body's limitations and choose a backpack that balances storage convenience with mobility.

## Soft-Sided Carrying Cases: Lightweight Convenience

Soft-sided carrying cases, usually made from fabric and equipped with a single zipper, are a popular choice for survival kits. They are lightweight, easy to store, and offer a practical solution for carrying your gear. However, it's crucial to note that they may not provide sufficient protection for fragile items. To use them effectively, consider strategically packing delicate items within the case.

## Rigid Carrying Cases: Maximum Protection

For enhanced protection of your gear, rigid carrying cases with plastic or metal sides are worth considering. Although they are heavier and bulkier compared to soft-sided cases, they excel at safeguarding your equipment against impacts and rough handling.

## Float Bags: Waterproof Security

If your adventures involve activities on or near water, a float bag or waterproof bag is highly recommended. By using a small carrying case inside the float bag or directly using the float bag, you ensure that your survival kit remains dry and secure. This is especially important when facing water-based challenges.

## Customizing Your Outdoor Survival Kit

## Group Size Considerations

Consider the number of people who will depend on the survival kit. For a solo trip, you'll need less gear compared to a 6-person camping expedition. Some items, like a fire starter, can be shared among the group, while others, like band-aids, and space blankets, should be individually available.

## Potential Emergencies

Different activities and environments pose varying emergency scenarios. For instance, if you plan to venture into forests, the tick-removal ointment may be essential, while the bear spray is crucial for areas where bears reside. Assessing these risks is vital for building a well-suited survival kit.

## Location and Environment

Consider the specific locations and the challenges they present. Trips to northern latitudes may expose you to frigid temperatures, leading to the need for emergency hand warmers and space blankets.

## Outdoor Experience Level

Your level of outdoor survival skills will impact the contents of your kit. Experienced hikers who are skilled at starting campfires may not require additional matches or emergency tinder, relying solely on a simple fire starter.

## Medical Conditions

If you have daily medications, include an extra set in your survival kit. Extended hiking trips may require additional supplies. Consult your medical provider for specific recommendations, such as high-altitude medicine, tailored to your health history.

## Self-Defense

For protection against potential threats from people or dangerous animals, some outdoor enthusiasts keep a weapon or self-defense tool in their survival kit. A survival knife, known for its sharpness, non-slip grip, and foldability, is recommended by experienced hikers. Always adhere to local laws and regulations when including any weapons or self-defense tools in your kit.

## Our Takeaway

Crafting a survival kit is an intimate and meticulous process. Each gear chosen becomes a lifeline in every situation. This guide sets you on a path to safe and thrilling adventures ahead!