

## **Camping at Home**

May 30, 2018

### **Tools, Supplies and Storage Options**

Depending on the type and severity of a man-made or natural disaster, you may have some clean-up and repairs to make your home livable while camping at home before our county roads are passable. It's also important to consider where and how to store your emergency supplies so they'll be undamaged and accessible. We'll consider some tools for clean-up and options for storing supplies in this section. However, the following just scratches the surface. You need to do your own research and your input is welcome.

Of all the reasons why you might need to camp at home, earthquakes are probably the most potentially damaging to your home and its contents. You could have extensive clean-up and repairs following a moderate to severe quake. What tools & supplies might you need? What can you do to earthquake-proof inside your home? We'll show some products as but we're not endorsing any particular brands or products.

#### **Earthquake proofing**

Look around your house. What heavy or fragile objects could tip over or fall off shelves? This includes bookcases, filing cabinets, TVs, framed pictures, etc. Glass and ceramics stored on open shelves or inside kitchen cupboards without latches could spill out and break. Earthquake proofing is somewhat similar to child proofing.

#### **Supplies for Quake Proofing**

- Safety window films reduce shattering
- Tremor or Kid-Safe picture hangers

- Straps (or eye screws & wire) to fasten free-standing shelving to wall
- Straps for TVs and electronics
- Latches on kitchen cabinets
- Elastic straps to retain glass jars on shelves
- Water heater strap

### **Indoor Clean-Up**

You could have a lot of broken glass & ceramics to clean up, e.g. windows, bathroom shower doors, kitchen glassware, plates etc. There could be a big mess of spilled food mixed with broken glass in the kitchen & pantry.

Tools you may need to deal with that include a square shovel, dustpan & broom, leather gloves, plastic garbage can, and large heavy-duty trash bags (3 mil, 42 gal.)

Broken windows can be temporarily fixed with plywood, cardboard or plastic sheeting. Use 6 mil clear plastic sheeting or cardboard if it's not raining. Staple the plastic or cardboard to the window frame, duct tape the edges, and support it with some 1X2 wood boards nailed to the frame, preferable on the exterior if it's accessible. You'll need a saw, box cutter, staple gun, nails or screws, and a hammer or screwdriver. If some broken windows can't be fully sealed, you can use plastic drop cloths or sheeting to cover your furniture.

If pipes are leaking, you'll need to shut off the water at the source. Leak sealing tape could come in handy to repair minor leaks. Of course, don't attempt to repair natural gas or propane pipes. Shut off these pipes immediately at the source; natural gas meters need a shutoff wrench.

Other basic tools that would come in handy include a crowbar, pliers, channel lock pliers, screwdrivers, electrical tape, tape measure, utility knife, safety goggles, and a hardhat

### **Outdoor Clean-up**

Large trees may fall on or near your house, across your driveway, and on county roads. If the trees have brought down power lines, do not touch them with your hands or objects unless you're 100% certain they're not energized.

Some tools and supplies you may need to deal with fallen trees or other obstacles outside include a chainsaw, bow saw, chainsaw bar oil, 50:1 oil bottles for gas-oil mix, extra saw chains, axe, shovels, pick, saw chaps, hardhat with face screen & earmuffs, pulling chain with hooks or chokers, and nylon rope. It would be good to have an extra 5 gallons of gas on hand for power equipment, and diesel fuel if you have a tractor.

### **Storage Options**

Consider how and where to store your emergency equipment and supplies so they will be undamaged, still useable (i.e. perishables) and readily accessible. Storing them in more than one location may be the best. See Water Storage for some options for storing water in containers inside or outside.

Fresh, canned and freeze-dried foods that you'll rely on for emergencies deserve special attention. The best location is somewhere temperatures will remain above freezing and not over 75 degrees. Long-term staples need to be stored in insect and rodent-proof, opaque and food safe plastic containers. Too much exposure or temperature fluctuations may reduce the shelf life of your stored food.

Safely storing an emergency supply of gasoline, propane and diesel fuel requires special considerations. Metal safety cans are the best containers for gas. Keep all flammables in a ventilated location away from direct sun or other heat sources. Adding fuel stabilizer will keep gas fresh for up to a year.

### *Indoors*

- Food pantry: Your rotating stock of foods you normally consume should be easily accessible indoors. Ideally your pantry has sturdy shelving, e.g. welded wire with lip or some sort of front bracing.
- Closet: Best to dedicate the closet to emergency supplies only. Could the door get stuck or blocked from the inside if contents shift?
- Garage: Temperatures may be harder control here, but could be good for non-perishable supplies. Use straps or wire to tie shelving to the wall to prevent a jumble of stuff falling down on your vehicles.
- Basement: Can have cooler temperatures for food storage. Use rodent proof containers and don't store food containers directly on a concrete slab.

### *Outside*

- Shed or barn: Need to insulate & ventilate to prevent freezing or over-heating. Be sure to tie the walls to the foundation or concrete slab.
- Trailer/RV: Should be parked outside away from trees that could fall. You can sleep inside one if your bedroom is not habitable.
- Cargo container: Standard sizes are 8 ft high and wide, and either 10, 20, or 40 ft long. Containers are probably the most secure outdoor option. You could store valuables if you decide to leave home. They need a large level pad with access for a truck to deliver. Containers can

be ventilated and insulated with rolled insulation, rigid panels, or spray foam.

### **Links**

<http://www.all-things-emergency-prepared.com/disaster-survival-equipment.html>

<http://www.sosproducts.com/default.asp>

<http://readyamerica.com/personal-home/>

<http://homeguides.sfgate.com/temporarily-fix-broken-window-pane-28125.html>

<https://www.thompsoncreek.com/blog/your-how-list-emergency-window-repair>

<http://quaketips.blogspot.com/>

<https://www.primalsurvivor.net/storing-emergency-food-stockpile/>

[http://www.oregonlive.com/living/index.ssf/2013/03/earthquake\\_preparation\\_where\\_t.html](http://www.oregonlive.com/living/index.ssf/2013/03/earthquake_preparation_where_t.html)

<https://www.electricgeneratorsdirect.com/stories/6-How-to-Safely-Stockpile-Emergency-Gasoline.html>

<http://nasdonline.org/917/d000760/storing-gasoline-and-other-flammables.html>