

PACKING A "GO BAG"

Be prepared to leave when circumstances change.

WHAT IS A "GO BAG"?

Simply put, a Go Bag is a bag containing essential items you may need if you have to leave your home or another location quickly.

Whether you're evacuating because of a wildfire, dealing with a natural disaster, facing an unexpected emergency, or leaving an unsafe situation, having important supplies ready can reduce stress and save valuable time.

Your Go Bag doesn't need to be expensive, complicated, or packed for the apocalypse.

It just needs to contain the things you and the people who depend on you might need for approximately 72 hours, with adjustments for your individual circumstances.

The goal isn't to prepare for everything. It's to make sure you have the essentials when you don't have time to gather them.

01 | IDENTIFICATION & IMPORTANT DOCUMENTS

- ☐ Driver's license or other identification
- ☐ Copies of birth certificates
- ☐ Copies of insurance cards
- ☐ Important medical information
- ☐ Emergency contact information
- ☐ Copies of essential legal documents
- ☐ Copies of important prescriptions
- ☐ Waterproof document pouch

Tip: Keep copies rather than originals when practical. Store sensitive documents securely.

YOUR GO BAG CHECKLIST

Gather the essentials that fit your needs.

02 | MONEY & FINANCIAL ESSENTIALS

- ☐ Emergency cash in small denominations
- ☐ Debit or credit card
- ☐ Backup payment method
- ☐ Important financial contact information
- ☐ Spare keys for your home and vehicle

03 | COMMUNICATION & ELECTRONICS

- ☐ Phone charging cable
- ☐ Wall charger
- ☐ Fully charged portable power bank
- ☐ Emergency contact list (printed)
- ☐ Small flashlight and spare batteries
- ☐ Battery-powered or hand-crank emergency radio

04 | MEDICATIONS & FIRST AID

- ☐ Essential prescription medications, when safely and legally available
- ☐ Copies of prescriptions
- ☐ Basic first aid kit
- ☐ Necessary over-the-counter medications
- ☐ Glasses or contact lenses and supplies
- ☐ Essential medical devices and supplies
- ☐ Personal hygiene and menstrual products

Tip: Check medication expiration dates and storage requirements regularly.

YOUR GO BAG CHECKLIST

Plan for yourself and the people who depend on you.

05 | CLOTHING & PERSONAL ITEMS

- ☐ Change of clothes
- ☐ Extra underwear and socks
- ☐ Comfortable walking shoes
- ☐ Weather-appropriate outerwear
- ☐ Basic toiletries
- ☐ Toothbrush and toothpaste
- ☐ Small towel or washcloth
- ☐ Emergency blanket

06 | FOOD & WATER

- ☐ Drinking water
- ☐ Nonperishable, ready-to-eat food
- ☐ High-protein snacks or energy bars
- ☐ Food for special dietary needs
- ☐ Reusable water bottle
- ☐ Manual can opener, if needed

Remember: A portable Go Bag may not hold enough water for three days. Plan for additional water supplies or a reliable way to obtain safe drinking water.

07 | CHILDREN & DEPENDENTS

- ☐ Diapers and wipes
- ☐ Formula, bottles, or baby food
- ☐ Age-appropriate snacks
- ☐ Extra clothing
- ☐ Comfort item or small toy
- ☐ Necessary medications
- ☐ Important caregiver and medical information
- ☐ Supplies for anyone with additional care needs

READY WHEN YOU NEED IT

Store safely. Check regularly. Update as life changes.

08 | PETS

- ☐ Pet food and portable water bowl
- ☐ Leash, collar, or harness
- ☐ Carrier, if appropriate
- ☐ Copies of vaccination records
- ☐ Pet medications
- ☐ Waste bags or litter supplies
- ☐ Identification and microchip information
- ☐ List of pet-friendly emergency accommodations

09 | PERSONAL SAFETY & PRACTICAL ESSENTIALS

- ☐ Written emergency contact information
- ☐ List of safe destinations
- ☐ Local map or printed directions
- ☐ Backup transportation information
- ☐ Whistle or other signaling device
- ☐ Personal protective equipment, such as masks
- ☐ Any additional items specific to your circumstances

KEEP YOUR BAG READY

Preparation creates options.

WHERE SHOULD YOU KEEP YOUR GO BAG?

Your Go Bag should be accessible, portable, and appropriate for your circumstances.

Consider keeping it near an exit, in a designated emergency storage area, or somewhere you can retrieve it quickly.

Some people may benefit from keeping a smaller emergency kit in their vehicle or workplace.

Important: If you're experiencing domestic violence, stalking, or coercive control, a packed bag could create additional danger if discovered. Consider working with a qualified domestic violence advocate to determine whether, where, and how to prepare emergency supplies safely.

DON'T FORGET TO MAINTAIN YOUR BAG

A Go Bag is only useful if its contents are ready when you need them.

- ☐ Check supplies every six months
- ☐ Replace expired food and medications
- ☐ Rotate stored water
- ☐ Recharge portable batteries
- ☐ Update emergency contacts
- ☐ Replace clothing as seasons or sizes change
- ☐ Update documents and important information
- ☐ Review supplies for children, pets, or changing medical needs

REMEMBER

A Go Bag isn't about expecting something bad to happen. It's about being prepared if something does.

You may never need it.

But if circumstances change and you need to leave quickly, having essential supplies ready means one less thing to worry about.

Preparation creates options.