

Bug-out bag

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Off-the-shelf Red Cross preparedness kit

A **bug-out bag** or **BOB** is a portable kit that normally contains the items one would require to survive for 72 hours when evacuating from a disaster, although some kits are designed to last longer periods. The focus is on evacuation, rather than long-term survival, distinguishing the bug-out bag from a survival kit, a boating or aviation emergency kit, or a fixed-site disaster supplies kit. The kits are also popular in the survivalism and prepper subcultures.

The term "bug-out bag" is related to, and possibly derived from, the "bail-out bag" emergency kit many military aviators carry. In the United States, the term refers to the Korean War practice of the U.S. Army designating alternative defensive positions, in the event that the units had to displace. They were directed to "bug out" when being overrun was imminent. The concept passed into wide usage among other military and law enforcement personnel, though the "bail-out bag" is as likely to include emergency gear for going into an emergency situation as for escaping an emergency.

Other names for such a bag are a **BOB**, **72-hour kit**, a **grab bag**, **battle box**, **personal emergency relocation kit** (PERK), **go bag**, **GOOD bag** (get out of Dodge), **INCH bag** (I'm never coming home). or **quick run bag** (QRB).

The term *go-kit* is popular in the amateur radio service, especially in the Radio Amateur Civil Emergency Service (RACES) and Amateur Radio Emergency Service (ARES) communities and describes a combination personal bug-out-bag and portable amateur radio station. A personal go-kit generally takes some combination of units - a "one-day" (or "24 hour") kit, a "three day" (or "72 hour") kit that adds additional supplies, or a "one week kit" that adds yet additional personal items to the three-day kit. Any or all supports deploying the operator plus his or her privately owned self-contained radio communications setup.

Rationale

The primary purpose of a bug-out bag is to allow one to evacuate quickly if a disaster should strike. It is therefore prudent to gather all of the materials and supplies that might be required to do this into a single place, such as a bag or a few storage containers. The recommendation that a bug-out bag contain enough supplies for seventy-two hours arises from advice from organizations responsible for disaster relief and management that it may take them up to seventy-two hours to reach people affected by a disaster and offer help. The bag's contents may vary according to the region of the user, as someone evacuating from the path of a hurricane may have different supplies from someone who lives in an area prone to blizzards, earthquakes or wildfires.

In addition to allowing one to survive a disaster evacuation, a bug-out bag may also be used when sheltering in place as a response to emergencies such as house fires, blackouts, tornadoes, and other severe natural disasters.

Some survivalists also recommend keeping a 'get me home' kit in the car and/or at work. This is a kit to enable a person to get back home from work in an emergency where all transport cars and public transport have broken down. It is designed around personal circumstances where, for example, a walk of 25 kilometers might be required from work to home. The 'get me home' kit can include, for example, enough water to get home, suitable walking shoes, a map (not electronic), enough food for 12 hours, clothing for adverse weather, etc.

Bug-Out Bag - Typical contents

The suggested contents of a bug-out bag vary, but most of the following are usually included:

- Enough food and water to last for at least 72 hours. This includes:
 - Water for washing, drinking and cooking. US recommends 1 gallon (3.78 liters) per person per day.
 - Non-perishable food.
 - Water purification supplies.
 - Cooking supplies.
- A first aid kit.
- Necessary clothing (e.g., socks and underwear). It is generally assumed that during an emergency situation outer wear will be worn for an extended period of time.
- Fire-starting tool (e.g., matches, Ferro cerium rod, lighter, 9volt battery, etc.).
- A disaster plan including location of emergency centers, rallying points, possible evacuation routes, etc.
- Professional emergency literature explaining what to do in various types of disaster, studied and understood before the actual disaster but kept for reference.
- Maps and travel information.
- Standard camping equipment, including sanitation supplies.
- Weather-appropriate clothing and UV protection (e.g., poncho, golf umbrella headwear, gloves, etc.).
- Bedding items such as sleeping bags and blankets, tube tent and/or tarps for rain and moisture protection.
- Enough medicine to last an extended evacuation period.
- Copies of medical records for each person in the family.
- Pet, child, and elderly care needs. Add extra food and water for pets.
- Battery or crank-operated radio.
- Lighting (battery or crank operated flashlight, glow sticks).
- An external power-pack or small, portable solar charger (to keep the phone charged).
- Cash and change, as electronic banking transactions may not be available during the initial period following an emergency or evacuation.
- Positive identification documents, plus any medical ID cards if you have them. Those with allergies should have a MedicAlert or similar ID.
- Printed copy of any insurance information such as home and contents insurance.
- Birth certificate or passport.
- Fixed-blade and folding knife.
- Swiss Army Knife and/or Multi-tool and/or Hatchet.
- Folding or Survival saw.
- Duct tape and rope or paracord.
- Tarpaulins for shelter and water collection.
- Wire for binding and animal traps.
- Compass.
- Slingshot, pellet gun, or other small game hunting equipment.
- Small Fishing tackle.
- Signal mirror.
- Emergency whistle.
- Rubber tubing.
- Medicine for indigestion, stomach ache, nausea, and diarrhea.
- Tampons.
- Trash bags.
- Aluminum foil.
- Bandana.
- Super glue, which can also be used to suture wounds.
- Pepper Spray as self protection against dangerous animals and people.
- Hand Sanitizer.