



CAR KIT CHECKLIST



RULES OF THE ROAD

Keep your gas tank full, particularly during the winter months. After an earthquake bridges and overpasses may be down. Plan an alternate route home that does not traverse bridges or overpasses.

STORAGE

Store Vehicle Emergency Supplies in a lightweight, easy-to-carry day pack, back pack or duffel bag. Keep items in the pack in air/water tight plastic bags. Keep the daypack in the trunk of your car or a plastic tote so it isn't obvious. Some items would be left with car if you abandon it (crow bar, big shovel, etc).

- Day pack, back pack or easy-to-carry duffel bag (you MUST be able to carry it or it is useless!!!)

WATER

Store water in your car in water packets, plastic bottles or gallon containers. Because trunks get hot in the summer causing plastics to break down, stainless water bottles are great. Water filters, purifiers or purification tablets may be necessary if you need to leave your vehicle and are unable to carry an adequate supply of potable water.

- Water bottle w/water (stainless is better than plastic)
- Water filter, purifier, drinking Straw, SteriPen and/or
- Water purification tablets (Potable Aqua tabs, etc.)

FOOD

Have at least a three-day supply of non-perishable food for each passenger. Select foods that are compact and lightweight and that aren't affected by heat. Rotate or replace food when the storage dates expire. Three Day Emergency Food Bars have a five year shelf life, require no preparation and taste like shortbread cookies. Clif Bars are sold in most stores.

- High energy foods (crackers, granola bars, trail mix)
- Dried fruit & nuts (Planters Dry Roasted Peanuts)
- Energy bars (Power Bar, Clif Bar, protein bars)
- Three Day Emergency Food Bars

LIGHT

A head lamp for hands-free maneuvering in the dark is a Must Have in our book. A small LED lantern & a small powerful flashlight is also good. With a candle lantern your candles won't blow out in the wind, & it can warm up your car by about 10 degrees. Keep the headlight/flashlight/lantern in a ziplock baggie with the batteries NOT installed. Check battery expiration dates and rotate them.

ESSENTIAL

- Flashlight with batteries and/or
- Head lamp w/ batteries (see Petzl headlamps)
- 12-hour lightsticks

HELPFUL

- Candle lantern and 1 or 2 extra candles
- Super long life LED lanterns
- Safety emergency candles ("tub" candles)
- Battery operated lamps with spare batteries

SANITATION

Store an ample supply of diapers for babies and incontinent persons, and personal hygiene materials for women.

ESSENTIAL

- Toilet paper
- Pre-moistened towelettes
- Campers trowel (for burying waste)
- Diapers & personal hygiene materials

FIRST AID

Store a first aid kit in each vehicle. Choose from an available kit or assemble your own. This kit will be smaller than the 1st aid/medical kit at home.

ESSENTIAL

- Medical information (list physicians' names and numbers, allergies, history and other pertinent data)
- Good first aid kit (like our Ultralight .9 kit)
- First Aid manual/book
- Latex gloves & face masks (several!!!)
- Personal medications or prescription drugs

HELPFUL

- Sunscreen, Lip balm & Insect Repellant
- Spare Eyeglasses

SUPPLIES

Know how to use a compass before you have to. Learn alternate routes through your area. Read an Emergency Information Manual -- before you need to use it.

ESSENTIAL

- Emergency signal device (flares, flasher, reflector, etc.)
- AM/FM/NOAA radio, solar/dynamo or battery operated with extra batteries
- Compass with instructions
- Maps of the areas you regularly travel through
- Leather palmed work gloves (for clearing debris)
- Warm clothes including hat to hold in body heat
- Sturdy walking shoes and extra clothing
- Phone numbers of contacts out of the area
- Money (cash, coins for phone calls)

HELPFUL

- Paper/pencil (to leave note if you abandon vehicle)
- Match books in zip lock bags or other waterproof containers, waterproof matches, BIC-type disposable lighter, box of Strike-Anywhere kitchen matches in zip-lock bag
- Large heavy duty garbage bags & zip lock bags
- Magnesium firestarter with instructions
- Whistle
- Signal mirror
- Pepper spray for personal protection
- Emergency Tube Tent
- Emergency space blanket (2-person) or bag
- Wool-blend blanket & small towel or washcloth
- Rain Gear
- Hand Warmers

TOOLS

For clearing roads, rescue, repair and setting up temporary quarters.

HELPFUL

- Jumper Cables
- Tool for breaking out windows in a car!
- Spare tire, tire jack & lug wrench
- Screwdriver & pliers
- Small spool of wire
- Duct tape and tarp
- Wrecking bar, crow bar
- Shovel
- Saw, folding saw, wire saw or Short-Kutt saw
- Polyethylene rope (for towing, rescue, etc.)
- Collapsible bucket
- Utility cord (at least 50')
- Face masks
- Multi-Purpose Tool (like Leatherman) or Pocket Knife