

You forgot the what?

(A guide for packing, camping and war kitchens)

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Greetings to you all!

After many years of camping, I developed a memorized routine of packing everything I need for an event or war. However, after this same number of years, I also have also come to the realization that I will still forget something ranging from semi-important to very important.

Like armor, or the center pole. Once I hooked up the lights of my carefully loaded trailer but forgot to put it on the hitch. The trailer did not move an inch, but for the most part, these oversights can be reduced by creating a packing list.

Check off each item as it is gathered in a 'staging area' for packing. Then you know you are finished packing the car, truck, AND trailer when this staging area is empty.

Unfortunately, there is one flaw in this method. The packing is done by we society folk. Society members seems to pack for events as if careful planning and organization seem to be out of society period and therefore not needed in general practice in these Current Middle Ages.

In spite of this and other traditions, I've cobbled together years of hard-won, and lost, experiences of my own and a number of others for the benefit of anyone who cares to read them.

There are lists and strategies of use to all, from the greenest novice to the most senior camp steward. You will note that some items are deliberately noted on more than one list: these redundancies are a safeguard so that what might be inadvertently be left off in one place, will be accounted for in another

FEAST BASKETS:

The simplest of events to prepare for is a one day event and feast. Simply said but making sure you take all the items you want is not as easy. It is good to have a basket always stocked, ready to grab-and-go. Use a large wicker basket with a good lid. Line the inside to keep out dirt and insects.

When fully loaded, the basket will weigh about the same as a medium sized javelina or wild boar so be sure the handles or straps are pretty heavy duty and well attached to the frame. When selecting your dinnerware keep in mind the feast environment and clean-up facilities when selecting your choice of materials. Metal doesn't insulate at all but doesn't break. Wood is a fair insulator and far more durable than ceramics, glass or china. Some plastic ware (often melamine ware) has a society appearance and avoids embarrassment when sitting across from Their Graces and their exquisite place settings.

You might consider keeping two feast baskets: one larger one stocked with all your regular sturdy gear, and a smaller one with nice, perhaps more fragile, plates, glasses and napkins for civilized indoor feasts. So! What to keep in a feast basket? Some items are obvious, some not. You may think of more.

Of course, you will want a complete place setting for each member of your household. You also may want to keep a couple of extra setting for guests or other unexpected uses.

FEAST BASKET CHECK LIST

- | | | |
|---|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Plates/platters | <input type="checkbox"/> Dinner knives | <input type="checkbox"/> Extra napkins (stored in a Zip-loc) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Bowls | <input type="checkbox"/> Soup spoons | <input type="checkbox"/> Tablespoons for serving |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Cups/mugs/tankards | <input type="checkbox"/> Forks | <input type="checkbox"/> Tablecloth(s) |
- Other items:
- | | | | |
|--|---|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Salt & Pepper | <input type="checkbox"/> Sugar (water tight) | <input type="checkbox"/> Instant Coffee | <input type="checkbox"/> Tea bags(herbal, etc.) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Candle holders | <input type="checkbox"/> Candles | <input type="checkbox"/> Lighter/matches | <input type="checkbox"/> Good Can opener |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Bottle opener | <input type="checkbox"/> Good Cork screw | <input type="checkbox"/> Steak knives | <input type="checkbox"/> Tongs (for serving) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Paper towels | <input type="checkbox"/> Cloth dish towel | <input type="checkbox"/> Handy/baby wipes (great for clean-up) | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Small flashlight | <input type="checkbox"/> Pain Reliever | | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Antacid and pink bismuth tablets (for after those 'special' feasts) | | | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 'Mundanity' covers | <input type="checkbox"/> Handi-wipes/Baby wipes | | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Alcohol based 'waterless' cleaner. (Kills bacteria on contact. Bacterial soaps need much more time for effect.) | | | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Kitchen garbage bags. (For trash, dirty dishes. Great liner in a basket for an make-shift wash tub or water bucket.) | | | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Sealable storage bags. (Several quart and gallon sized for left-overs, etc.) | | | |

FEAST BASKET TIPS:

Put your society name on the bottom of your drinking vessels. These items get lost more than any other. Another tip is to fill 2-liter bottles to about an inch shy of full, squeeze the air out a bit, freeze and put the frozen bottle in your cooler to keep your items cool and dry.

FIRST AID KIT

This is for FIRST and minor aid. Always seek the advice of a Chirurgeon on any injury.

- | | |
|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Finger Bandages (assorted) | <input type="checkbox"/> Large bandage pads |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Calamine Lotion | <input type="checkbox"/> Aloe Vera gel or lotion for minor burns. |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Antiseptic wipes | <input type="checkbox"/> Pain Reliever (Aspirin and Acetaminophen) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Eye Wash and cup | <input type="checkbox"/> Scissors |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Tweezers | <input type="checkbox"/> Cotton swabs |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Ace bandages | <input type="checkbox"/> Gauze wrap |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Bandage tape | <input type="checkbox"/> Sterile gauze pad packs |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Small knife | |

CAMP KITCHEN CHECK LIST

Now you are ready to really camp and setup up your very own kitchen. As with the feast basket, you may find it helpful to keep a stocked camp kitchen ready to go. A useful container is a large plastic tub, Most of the gear can be acquired inexpensively from second-hand or surplus stores or your local discount outlet.

(The following items fit into a 24"x18"x18" plastic tub with a high lid. 'Tetris' experience is a plus.)

- | | |
|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Griddle / Lg Fry Pan (10") | <input type="checkbox"/> Deep pan (5qt) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Handled pot (3qt) | <input type="checkbox"/> Teapot |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Coffee pot | <input type="checkbox"/> Large metal spoons (slotted & regular) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Wok-style ladles with & w/o holes | <input type="checkbox"/> Wood mixing spoons |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Long metal tongs | <input type="checkbox"/> Whisk |
| <input type="checkbox"/> BBQ fork | <input type="checkbox"/> BBQ Spatula |
| <input type="checkbox"/> BBQ skewers | <input type="checkbox"/> Regular spatula |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Pot holders (2-3) | <input type="checkbox"/> Dish towels / Rags |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Chef's knife (I have a Ginsui type) | <input type="checkbox"/> Long blade knife |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Paring knives (2) | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Large plastic mixing bowl, 5qt min. | <input type="checkbox"/> Cutting board (plastic preferred over wood) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Large strainer or colander | <input type="checkbox"/> Fabric or material covers to hid water jugs & coolers |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Large plastic funnel | <input type="checkbox"/> Lighter & wood matches w/ striker in waterproof container |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Plastic measuring cup (16oz) | <input type="checkbox"/> Large plastic pitcher |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Plastic wrap roll | <input type="checkbox"/> Long kitchen aprons (keeps the garb clean) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Tin foil roll | <input type="checkbox"/> Large trash bags (roll) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Large ZipLocks (1 & 2 gal.) | <input type="checkbox"/> Dish washing liquid |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Scrubber brush | <input type="checkbox"/> Steel wool pads |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Paper towels | <input type="checkbox"/> Can opener (in Feast Basket) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Bottle opener (in Feast Basket) | <input type="checkbox"/> Two stackable 10x14 plastic storage boxes as wash tubs |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Small bottle bleach (surface - sanitation standard is 1part bleach per 24 parts of water) | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Cafeteria style tray (12x18 size is great for general food prep on un-sanitary work surfaces.) | |

Suggested items that do not fin in the kitchen tub

- Large 2' diameter wash & rinse tubs. (Optional)
- 7-10 quart stew pot and lid
- Collapsible soft-sided trash barrel (found in home store garden sections)
- 6-8 clothes pins to hold trash bag in place.

KITCHEN TIP: Pack a 3lb coffee can. The gallon sized sealable bags fills the can and folds-back nicely over the top. This holds the bag wide open for filling. Make sure there are no burrs on the lip of the can. Try to keep all your food stuff in sealable water-resistant tubs. This can be a life saver after a major storm.

CAMPING GEAR CHECK LIST

- Sleeping Tent w/ poles
- Kitchen pavilion w/ poles
- (Make sure you have ALL the poles!)**
- Stakes (10" nails best. Forget plastic)
- Camping Gear Tip:** Wrap large washers in duct tape then push the nail through and the washer won't slide off.
- Canopy for tent (Keeps tent much cooler)
- Water proofing spray
- Ground cover tarp(s)
- Portable holes
- Lantern(s) (kerosene /propane /electric)
- Extra Lantern mantles /bulbs.
- Candle lantern & candles
- Sledge hammer (5-10 lb mini-sledge)
- Lighter /matches
- Lantern hooks
- Fire pit / brazier
- Sleeping Bag(s) (20 degree rated)
- Pillows
- Folding tables (kitchen work & general)
- Disposable table coverings
- Flashlights
- Spare bulbs
- Duct tape (2-3 rolls)
- Shepards hooks or other lantern hangers
- FIRE EXTINGUISHER (1for each tent and kitchen)
- Temporary tarp clamps with grommet holes (These clamps are usually found in hardware stores)
- Tent heater (**Avoid leaving large BTU heaters on while sleeping.!**)
- Camp Fuel (Plan on at least a gallon of fuel for every 3 days.
1 10oz. propane bottle per day for each lantern and heater.)
- Supply Tent & poles
- Guy ropes
- Tent rugs
- Tarps
- Grommet repair kit
- Tie down rope (100' or more of nylon or cotton)
- Banners & poles
- Hurricane Lamps
- Lamp oil (Quart should fuel a lamp for a week)
- Camp knife (Large survival type suggested)
- Fire axe
- Camp stove(s)
- Fire wood
- Hot water bottle
- Blankets /bedding
- Foam/air mattress
- Folding Chairs
- Water cooler(s)
- Portable radio (for weather & emergencies)
- Batteries (for lights & radio)
- Sleeping futons, cots, pads, beds

Camping Gear Tips: The propane 'trees' that mount on the large tanks are relatively inexpensive but are much cheaper in the long run for propane lanterns. I set the 5 gallon (20lb.) tank on a table or stand so the top of the tree sits above head height to provide good lighting. '**SECOND CHANCE**' is the name of a brass adapter that I have that screws onto the tree with the large propane tank threads on the other end for connecting large grills and other stuff.

Keep stakes, tie down ropes, repair kits, etc. in a 5 gallon bucket with lid.

NOTE: drill a few holes in the side of the tub just below the lid to avoid condensation.

VEHICLE CHECK LIST

- Spare tire, INFLATED!
 - Radiator water (3 gal. min)
 - Spare oil
 - 12v Air compressor (Damn near essential)
 - Flashlight (Check batteries)
 - TOOLS! (Hammer, adjustable wrench, vise grips, screwdrivers, pliers, hose clamps, etc.)
 - Heavy duty portable power pack for jumping dead batteries.
 - Jumper cables
 - Power steering fluid
 - Radiator tape / duct tape
 - Transmission fluid
 - Road flares or flasher
- There is no need to depend on another vehicle being around and most come with built in air compressor*

PERSONAL GEAR CHECK LIST

Pack as much as I can into stacking plastic tubs with lids that seal well. They keep your stuff clean, dry and pretty bug free even in the worst weather. Put you shoes on top at night.

- | | |
|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Address book/EMERGENCY NUMBERS | <input type="checkbox"/> Wallet and ID and credit/debit cards |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Newsletter with event directions.(Stick in sun visor) | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Map (In sun visor) | <input type="checkbox"/> Money (sounds dumb but I've forgotten) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Notepad | <input type="checkbox"/> Pen/pencil/Calligraphy set |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Watch | <input type="checkbox"/> Alarm Clock |
| <input type="checkbox"/> SCA membership & fighting waiver | <input type="checkbox"/> Camera |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Cell phone AND the charger | <input type="checkbox"/> Film and batteries |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Toilet paper | <input type="checkbox"/> Tissues |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Hair Brush / Combs | <input type="checkbox"/> Tooth Brush |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Tooth paste | <input type="checkbox"/> Shampoo/Conditioner |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Bar/liquid soap | <input type="checkbox"/> Deodorant (fighter optional) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> PRESCRIPTION MEDICATION | <input type="checkbox"/> Sun Screen |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Shaving Cream | <input type="checkbox"/> Razor(s) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Hair Ties | <input type="checkbox"/> Wash cloths |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Bath towels | <input type="checkbox"/> Insect repellent |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Safety pins | <input type="checkbox"/> Spare eye glasses |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Handy wipes/ baby wipes (Large container) | <input type="checkbox"/> Alcohol based "waterless" handcleaner |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Feminine Hygiene supplies | <input type="checkbox"/> Co-habitation supplies |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Contact lens solution | <input type="checkbox"/> Contact lens case |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Sewing repair kit | <input type="checkbox"/> Sun glasses |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Stapler (great for quick-fix on hems) | <input type="checkbox"/> Walking cane /staff |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Carry basket | <input type="checkbox"/> Makeup |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Large metal camp mirror (no glass) | <input type="checkbox"/> Umbrella(s) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Glass repair kit (mini-driver and screws) | |

CLOTHING:

- | | |
|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Spare MODERN CLOTHS (2 sets min.) | <input type="checkbox"/> Under garments (fighter optional) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Socks (heavy & light) | <input type="checkbox"/> VERY comfortable footwear |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Work Boots (insulated & water proof) | <input type="checkbox"/> Cloak(s) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> SCA boots | <input type="checkbox"/> Head coverings |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Slip on foot wear (for the privy dash) | <input type="checkbox"/> Sweat pants / leggings |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Belts | <input type="checkbox"/> Scarves |
| <input type="checkbox"/> GARB (Court, field, warm & light styles) | <input type="checkbox"/> Rain ponchos |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Favors / medallions | <input type="checkbox"/> Shower tunic or robe |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Hats | <input type="checkbox"/> Belts |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Cloth Laundry bags. (Old pillowcases work well.) | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Avoid plastic bag as they hold in dampness and mold. | |

With regards and safe travels,

Yehudah of Nuremberg,
Barony of SunDragon, Atenveldt