

Home Depot Bonus Report:

How to Supplement Your Walmart Preparations

Home Depot (or your local hardware store) offers an alternative venue to purchase a number of items that may prove useful to you. As there are only a few dozen new items to discuss here, this will be a brief report. Regardless, many of these items can prove as useful as any item from the Walmart discussion... given the right circumstances. Take heed and prepare now.

A few points to consider:

- o While Home Depot is specified, any hardware store (such as Lowe's) will likely have similar items.
- o Although I would expect that most of these items are available at nearly any Home Depot, **there is no guarantee that they will be available at your local Home Depot stores** because of seasonal or geographic concerns, or for some other reason I am unaware of.
- o Last, and certainly not least, **please do not expect that any of these items will be readily available in a disaster scenario...** others may have already beaten you to them!

NOTE: Although this is a very specific list of additional supplies I feel everyone should acquire to adequately survive most anticipated emergencies for a short period of time, please DO NOT consider this as all-inclusive since you may have unique needs or circumstances.

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Preparations from Walmart Checklist

The following tables are a reminder of the equipment and supplies you might be able to purchase at Home Depot (rather than at Walmart) if you so choose. In some instances—in particular hand tools or lawn and garden equipment—this may be a wise choice as you will likely find more options and better quality gear.

<p><u>General Equipment</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o Cooler, 50 quart or larger o Funnels; 2-3 or more o Gas Cans, 5-gallon; 4 or more cans o Tarp, General Purpose Rip-Stop, 8'x10' at minimum; 2+ tarps o Tote Bins; 2-3 or more o [Optional] Car Jack and Jack Stands o [Optional] Clothesline and Clothespins o [Optional] Exterior Thermometer o [Optional] Heavy-duty Chain and Padlock o [Optional] Siphon Hose o [Optional] Step Ladder, 6' or larger o [Optional] Straps/Tie Downs <p><u>Hand Tools</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o Basic Tools (Hammer, Screwdrivers, Pliers, Wrench Set) o Handsaw and Hacksaw o Staple Gun and Assorted Staples [Arrow, Stanley] o Steel Snips [Fiskars] o Toolbox and Tool Belt o Work Gloves; one/adult o [Optional] Bolt Cutters o [Optional] Caulk Gun o [Optional] Plumbers Torch Kit o [Optional] Utility Knife o [Optional] Wrecking Bar 	<p><u>General Supplies</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o Antifreeze o Duct Tape; 1-2 rolls o Epoxy, General Purpose o Fasteners, Assorted (Nails, Screws, Nuts/Bolts, etc) o Fast-Setting Glue [Super Glue] o Insulating Foam [Great Stuff] o Multi-Purpose Glue [Gorilla Glue] o Plastic Sheeting, 4-6 mils; 1-2 rolls o Sharpie Markers; 2+ markers o Strike-on-Box Matches; 1-2 boxes o Utility Rope/Twine, Assorted Sizes o Wire/Zip Ties, Assorted Sizes o [Optional] Caulking [Liquid Nails]; 1-2 tubes o [Optional] Clothesline, Clothespins** o [Optional] Cyalume Light/Glow Sticks; several or more o [Optional] Electrical Tape o [Optional] Fuel Stabilizer [Stabil] o [Optional] Lubricant [WD-40] o [Optional] Velcro Strapping o [Optional] Weather Stripping o [Optional] Window Screen <p><u>Cleaning Supplies</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o Disinfectant Cleaner [Lysol] o Trash Bags, 13-gallon [Glad, Hefty] o Trash Bags, 33-gallon [Glad, Hefty] o [Optional] Dust Pan and Broom
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<p><u>Pest Control</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o Ant Bait Gel [Raid, Combat] o Flea Spray o Fly Swatter and Fly Tape o Insect Repellent [Off!]; one/person o Mouse/Rat Traps; several o Roach Bait [Raid, Combat] o Rodent Bait [D-con] o Wasp Spray [Raid, Spectracide] <p><u>Sanitation and Personal Protection</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o Disposable Gloves (Latex-free); box of 50 or more o Face Masks, N-95; several/person o Safety Glasses; one/adult o Wet Wipes; several packages o [Optional] Earplugs, Disposable; several o [Optional] Sunglasses; one/adult o [Optional] Wet Boots/Gaiters; one set/adult <p><u>Safety and Security</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o Carbon Monoxide Detector, Battery-Operated [Kidde]; one/level of home o Fire Extinguishers, ABC Style [Kidde]; at least one/level of home o Smoke Alarms, Battery-Operated [Kidde]; at least one/level of home o [Optional] Door Security Bar [Master Lock]; one/exterior door o [Optional] Door Chain, Heavy-duty o [Optional] Fire Safe 	<p><u>Electrical Equipment and Supplies</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o Alkaline Batteries, AA and AAA [Duracell, Energizer]; dozens of each o AM/FM Radio, Battery-Powered o Flashlights, LED style preferred [MagLite]; one/person o Headlamp Light; one/adult o Lantern, Battery-Operated (LED style preferred) [Brunton] o Other Batteries (C, D, 9-volt) [Duracell, Energizer]; as needed o [Optional] Rechargeable AA Batteries [Energizer]; several o [Optional] Surge Protector; 1-2 total <p><u>Lawn and Garden</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o Patio Solar Lights; several o Propane BBQ Grill and Equipment o Propane Tank, Large; 2 or more o Shovel, Large o Trans Cans, 32 Gallon or Larger o [Optional] Chainsaw, Gas [Stihl] o [Optional] Fire Logs [Duraflame] o [Optional] Insecticide, Pre-mixed o [Optional] Snow Shovel <p><u>Miscellaneous</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o Cash Back, \$200+ cash in assorted small bills and quarters o Road Maps (local, national) [Rand McNally]; one set/vehicle
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Supplemental Preparations

The supplemental preparations listed below are in alphabetical order for convenience only. Realize that there are plenty of good reasons for you to have this equipment at hand, so let's get started.

Additional Hand Tools and Equipment

The basic hand tools I recommend from your Walmart list are all that most people would find necessary. On the other hand, **you never know what tools you may need or when you'll need them...** at least, that's what I keep telling my wife anyway. 😊

Remember, in a disaster you won't be able to go to the hardware store if you're missing something. Also note that while a majority of the following tools are also be available at Walmart, I feel you'll find more of a selection here:

- o Allen wrench set
- o Bungee cords
- o Carpenter's square
- o Hardened steel chisel
- o Locking vice grips
- o Precision screwdriver set
- o Quick-release vice grips
- o Rubber mallet
- o Strap wrench
- o Tape measure
- o Wood files, chisels, and rasps

Cable Puller

A cable puller (a.k.a., “power puller” or “come along”) is useful for moving large, heavy objects that you would otherwise never be able to budge. Use one for moving a felled tree from a roadway or freeing your car from a ditch. Buy one that is at least rated for 2-tons in weight for a wider range of applications.

Disposable Chemical Gloves

During your Walmart trip I recommended that you purchase dozens of latex-free disposable gloves for hygiene and sanitation concerns. You can certainly add to that supply here.

In addition, **I would also suggest you purchase a few other types of disposable gloves, including nitrile, neoprene, and/or PVC-coated disposable gloves.**

These gloves can be used to protect your hands from a wider range of chemicals and substances.

Read the labels if you have a specific use in mind in order to decide what gloves you would need. Purchase several to a few dozen of these gloves. It couldn't hurt to get a set or two of reusable heavy-duty chemical gloves too. Because the rubber is much thicker than with disposable gloves, these heavy-duty gloves should be expected to withstand more wear and tear.

Disposable Coveralls, Heavy-duty

Disposable coveralls are meant to protect your clothes (and to some extent your body) from any sort of minor muckiness you can get into. They can be useful for purposes such as general cleanup to heavy sanding to auto work.

Avoid purchasing lightweight coveralls; they're not nearly durable enough. Look for heavy-duty coveralls instead and get a size that closely fits you. If you can find them, a pair of chemical-resistant coveralls would be preferred. Purchase at least one pair per adult. It can't hurt to include shoe guards as well.

Fasteners, Assorted (Nails, Screws, Nuts/Bolts, etc)

I recommended you purchase an assortment of fasteners during your Walmart trip. Truth be told, you're far better off purchasing these supplies from Home Depot merely because they will have a much larger selection of fasteners to choose from.

Buy an assortment of fasteners, focusing first on common nail sizes that are able to penetrate two 2x4 pieces of lumber. A three inch long nail will suffice. It should be galvanized for increased longevity outdoors. A five-pound box or two should be enough nails for most circumstances. Likewise, it can't hurt to have a small box or two of screws as well. Buy a few sizes such as one and one-half inches and three inches for completeness. **Focus should be on nails for preparedness, not screws** because hammers will always work, screwdrivers may not.

I would also buy an assortment of nuts, bolts, washers, spacers, and other such supplies. These items serve very specific purposes that can be difficult to complete without them. Ask the local store associate what common sizes and supplies may be useful if you need guidance.

Full Face Shield

A full face shield is meant to shield your face from flying debris. Normally this includes work such as cutting or drilling. While I wouldn't expect you to be

engaging in these types of activities because most cutting and drilling require electricity to happen, there are still a few good reasons to have a face shield.

One reason for using a face shield would include any work where you're engaging in destructive acts such as using a wrecking bar to rip apart wood or using a sledge hammer to pulverize something; both acts could easily result in flying debris where you would want to shield your face.

The other reason I would suggest a full face shield would be if you're the primary caretaker for a contagious person where their actions may be involuntary such as projectile-like coughing. Since bodily fluids are a primary pathway for transferring disease-causing pathogens you'll want to shield yourself from this as much as possible. I would suggest one face shield for each adult.

Full Rain Suit

While I recommend you purchase a rain poncho at Walmart, sometimes that's just not enough. In torrential downpours where cold and windy conditions are possible **you'll welcome the extra protection a complete rain suit offers.**

The rain suit should include three-pieces: a jacket with hood, full-length pants and a bib. (A pair of wet boots would be necessary for head-to-toe protection.) If possible, purchase one per adult who is expected to work outdoors.

Generator

I must admit I'm not a big fan of generators. I believe that people choose to rely on them too much and, thereby, fail to prepare for a disaster properly. That said, generators do have their place. They can certainly keep your refrigerator (and room

air conditioner) running in blazing hot weather, provide a bit of lighting at night, and even continue running life-saving medical equipment. These are all very worthy goals but there are a few problems to address.

The main problem I have is simply this: what are you going to do if a disaster lasts longer than a few days, the gasoline runs out, and your generator stops working? You're in the same boat you would have been initially only delayed a bit. If you prepared properly, for instance, with an appropriate store of non-perishable foods then the desire to keep your refrigerator running so you have something to eat may not be as crucial.

Generators are also an operations security (OPSEC) concern as well. If you have been able to secure enough gasoline to continue running your generator for weeks, I would suggest that they then become a beacon for ill-intentioned people—who are wholly unprepared—to come looking to you for your supplies. I'd prefer to lay low and not advertise like this. Granted, there are relatively quiet generators available if you've got the money. Unfortunately, even quiet generators may be heard from long distances when everything is deadly silent.

Last, at a cost of easily hundreds of dollars for one piece of equipment, **I would suggest you bolster other supplies first.** When you feel you can adequately survive most disasters with the other items I suggest from your Walmart list then, and only then, would I entertain the thought of buying a generator.

If you do have need for a generator you must ensure it is able to handle the power loads you expect to place on it. Research this online or ask a store employee for help. You must also ensure you have enough gasoline to power it. You should also

know how to maintain one as well as the dangers it can pose to both you (when using and maintaining it) as well as to electrical company workers (if you've connected your generator improperly to your home) who may be attempting to restore lost power. If you're planning on connecting a whole-house generator then hire a licensed electrician to do it properly and safely.

Hand Truck

A hand truck (a.k.a., “furniture dolly”) can prove worth its weight in gold because it allows you to transport heavy objects while saving your back some hard lifting. If you've every lifted a full five-gallon homer bucket then you know that you're not going to get very far...even if you're in good shape.

----- Sidebar -----

Five gallons of water weigh more than forty pounds and can be awkward to carry.

Expect that you'll be moving buckets filled with water, fecal waste, or perhaps large objects. Save your back to strain and get something to do the heavy lifting for you. A wheelbarrow would suffice but is very bulky. A garden cart is smaller and may work well too; however, a hand truck may be ideal as it is fairly compact. I definitely recommend you purchase a small folding hand truck if you are not physically fit. It will pack away easily and still do the job.

Hand-Crank Radio

A hand-crank radio, such as the Eton Red Cross edition, may be an essential addition to your preparedness supplies especially if you run out of batteries or don't own a battery-powered radio already.

This particular model—the Eton FR360—sold at Home Depot runs on wall electricity, rechargeable batteries, and, of course, a crank. If you purchase one in advance you can send away for a special adapter that would allow you to charge your cell phone (assuming it's a supported brand and model) with the hand-crank.

While I've never tried to charge my cell phone in this way I would assume it may come in handy in some situations. This emergency radio also happens to have a flashlight and even receives NOAA weather alerts; both of which can be useful after a disaster.

Hard Hat

I would imagine you know what a hard hat does. You see construction workers use them all the time. **There's a good rationale for that... things can fall on your head without notice!** This is particularly true after a disaster.

For those working around any sort of disaster debris you need to be as safe as you can by wearing the appropriate safety equipment, including a hard hat where appropriate. Hard hats also have application for felling trees and demolition work. One is recommended for each adult expected to work outdoors.

Home Repair Books (Electrical, Plumbing, Home Improvement)

You may find need to repair various home electrical or plumbing equipment at some point in the future. If you have no idea what you're doing and you cannot contact anyone to help, a quality repair book can come in handy.

While this isn't a big deal in a disaster scenario, after all, you may not have the appropriate tools to fix a problem, **a home repair book can still be a welcome**

addition to your library for general knowledge purposes. I reference one on occasion and am glad I have them around.

Homer Buckets with Lids, Five-Gallon

I just love five-gallon homer buckets. I've purchased many dozens of them over the years. From long term food storage to water storage to human waste storage, you'll find it difficult to purchase too many.

Home buckets are sturdy, durable, and inexpensive. Be sure to purchase lids with your buckets. Ensure the lids include a rubber gasket for a proper seal. Considering that these buckets are so handy, buy in bulk! At the very least I would suggest you purchase several buckets (with lids) or more for general water and waste storage.

Although most homer buckets are made of #2 HDPE plastic, they should not be allowed to directly contact food and water for long periods of time because of the possibility for chemical leeching unless the buckets specifically state that they are food grade buckets.

Lumber and Plywood Sheeting

An assortment of lumber (such as 2x4's) and plywood sheeting will prove necessary for any number of exterior household repairs as well as for shoring up windows in the event of bad storms or hurricanes.

A few sheets of plywood won't take up much room at all, easily sliding against a garage wall. Ensure the plywood you purchase is at least 3/4" thick for durability.

Lumber comes in handy for a variety of repair jobs as well. Several lengths of 2x4's will also stack readily out of the way.

I would encourage you to buy a five-pound box of three inch long galvanized nails and store them away to ensure you have the ability to utilize your lumber and plywood when you need it.

----- Sidebar -----

Although screws secure better than nails, screws are not recommended as you may not have the ability to use them if your power is out. Hammer and nails will suffice.

Pick Mattock

A mattock makes short work of digging trenches. While you're not going to be digging a bomb shelter with one, you may find use for a pick mattock in digging a latrine if a disaster continues longer than expected. While you can certainly use a shovel for this purpose as well, the pick mattock is an ideally suited tool.

Propane Hose Extension

Large BBQ grills come with a longer propane hose in order to connect a large propane tank to the regulator. Unfortunately, the smaller hand-held BBQ grills do not come with a hose because they're expected to use the one-pound tanks that will easily screw directly into a small BBQ grill.

If you heed my advice and purchase one or two large propane tanks but have a small BBQ grill or propane space heater, then you're going to want an extension to readily connect them. Know that there are different types of fittings. Fortunately,

most are Type 1 fittings, so you should be ok with blindly purchasing a propane hose extension and expecting it to work in most situations.

Propane Level Indicator and Safety Valve

If you're going to be connecting large propane tanks to a variety of stoves and heaters, I would strongly encourage you to include a level indicator. It will help you to determine how fast you're using your propane tanks. I would suggest you have one valve per tank (assuming you're using multiple tanks at a time).

Respirators (N-100/P-100)

Although face masks were discussed in the Walmart guide we want to revisit them again, this time in the form of quality respirators. These **respirators perform the same function as the recommended N-95 face masks, except they do it better.**

The N-100 (or P-100) respirators are expected to filter airborne particulates to about 99.97% or so, effectively 100%. Although better alternatives exist, for highly dangerous situations with nasty dust involved (think World Trade Center debris after collapse) or a highly contagious flu pandemic, these masks are most people's best readily available option.

----- Sidebar -----

Face masks and respirators are not rated for airborne pathogens like a flu pandemic. I would suspect they do this for liability issues, though I really don't know for sure. As such, there is certainly no guarantee they will function for this purpose whatsoever. **Use at your own risk!**

Regrettably, respirators are fairly expensive. At between \$10 and \$20 for one, you're not going to purchase dozens of them. One or two per adult (or one per person) is all I could expect you to purchase. If possible, get one that has a one-way valve for easier breathing.

Safety Goggles

Splash goggles perform the same function as safety glasses would only better because they help to protect your eyes from more than just frontal exposure. Obviously this has application to general safety concerns such as from flying debris, however, I'm interested in goggles for their **ability to keep hazardous chemicals and contagious bodily fluids from contacting your eyes.**

Since you never know what you're going to get into or when, you'll want the ability to stay as safe as possible; safety (splash) goggles aid in this endeavor.

Sledge Hammer

Like a wrecking bar, a sledge hammer is meant to make short work of some demolition tasks or where a lot of brute force is required, such as with hammering a wedge to split firewood. I would honestly only consider buying one if you expect to be splitting a lot of firewood. By the way, you'll need a wedge also. 😊

Sliding Door Brace

Sliding glass doors need even more security than a regular door. Honestly, sliding glass doors are a security nightmare. Consider buying a door brace suited for sliding doors as a bit of extra security.

While not foolproof (one can easily toss a large rock or brick through the door and be inside in seconds), a door brace does prevent the door from being jerked open. In addition, a door brace advertises to burglars and others that you're more security-conscious than the average Joe and perhaps they'll move on...hopefully.

Window Screen Material

Replacement window screen material can be used in place of cheesecloth or coffee filters as an excellent water pre-filter option. While window screen is not a closely spaced as cheesecloth, it can still be used to exclude large debris such as leaves, grass, pebbles, and so on. And since it's more durable than cheesecloth you may find it lasts longer too.

Even more beneficial, window screening comes in large rolls. You can cut what you need and replace it often for cleanliness. Definitely use window screening to filter "dirty" water before pouring it into five-gallon Homer buckets, large trash cans (lined with an appropriate new trash bag, of course), 55-gallon water drums, or wherever you choose to use. I'm sure you'll find good use for it.

Supplemental Preparations Checklist

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Additional Hand Tools and Equipment ○ Allen wrench set ○ Carpenter's square ○ Hardened steel chisel ○ Precision screwdriver set ○ Quick-clamp vice grips ○ Strap wrench ○ Tape measure ○ Wood files and rasps ○ Cable Puller ○ Disposable Chemical Gloves; several ○ Disposable Coveralls, Heavy-duty; one/adult ○ Fasteners, Assorted (Nails, Screws, Nuts/Bolts, etc) ○ Full Face Shield; one/adult ○ Full Rain Suit; one/adult 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Generator ○ Hand Truck ○ Hand-Crank Radio ○ Hard Hat; one/adult ○ Home Repair Books (Electrical, Plumbing, Home Improvement) ○ Homer Buckets with Lids, 5-Gallon; several ○ Lumber and Plywood Sheeting ○ Pick Mattock ○ Propane Hose Extension ○ Propane Level Indicator and Safety Valve ○ Respirators (N-100/P-100); one/adult ○ Safety Goggles; one/adult ○ Sledge Hammer ○ Sliding Door Brace ○ Window Screen Material
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