



SURVIVAL CACHES: Survival Guide for Preparing and Deploying a cache.

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SURVIVAL CACHES

Offsite Storage of Survival Essentials for emergency resupply and retrieval.

This guide provides information on building and filling caches with survival essentials. It discusses the materials needed to build a homemade cache and how repurpose other storage devices for use as a cache. The included checklist serves as a guideline for what type of items to include in your cache.

Further details explain where and how to deploy a cache at predefined points and the importance of sharing (or not sharing) the coordinates.

Tips are provided for developing a bugout or emergency response plan that incorporates the use of said caches.

Bottom Line Up Front (BLUF):

1. A cache can aid in providing offsite food resupply, message drops, weapons storage, and aid in a bugout.
2. The location of a cache is just as important as its contents. Recording and sharing coordinates is vital.
3. The method in which you build and conceal a cache is essential to its remaining unintentionally found or damaged by elements.
4. Incorporating a cache into your bugout plan is key.
5. This guide will cover; Cache Purpose, Cache Type, Cache Packing/Loading, Cache Location/Deployment.

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SURVIVAL CACHE DEFINED

/kaSH/ pronounced “cash,” not “cash-ay.”

Noun: A collection of items of the same type stored in a hidden or inaccessible place.

Verb: To store items for future use

PURPOSE OF A CACHE

The use of cache(s) for the purpose of survival would be to have supplies or useful items stored for later use. Not only will it take weight off of your load but it will also leave crucial supplies in strategic places. If disaster occurs there's a good chance you may not be home, near your bugout gear, or even close to your vehicle. Caches are for these less than ideal scenarios. They provide a means to hide necessary supplies for shelter building, sustenances, fire making, self defense and more.

Caches are meant to be hidden so that only you (or members of your [ICERS](#) plan) have access to them. A cache can serve many purposes as outlined below.

- Resupply Point - Keeping items nearby your homestead of Bug Out Location (BOL) is helpful during all types of emergencies. In the event power and utilities are lost and your readily accessible supplies are depleted, a resupply point will be able to aid in your sustainment. A resupply point's focus is on items such as ammo, water, food, [fuel](#), power sources. Keep a log of expiration dates and make a schedule of when you will cycle supplies out and into daily use.
- Bugout Gear Stash - If an egress must be made without being to access your primary [bugout bag](#) or other emergency loadouts, this stash can serve as a retrieval point to collect necessary gear for a bugout.
- Expedited Foot Egress - There may be times when a foot escape from an area is more important than having a bag full of gear dragging you down. Carrying a [Get Home Bag](#) (GHB) or less is acceptable in order to keep your weight down and travel by foot as long as you have a Bugout Gear Stash.
- Contraband Cache - When SHTF governmental forces, local militias, or foreign actors may enact strict laws, bans, taxes, and forced redistribution of supplies. Supplies at your homestead or BOL could be subject to confiscation. Consider storing ammo, guns, alcohol, shelf stable food stuffs, comms gear, etc.
- Backup Supplies - Much like a contraband cache's purpose, having backup supplies is crucial in the event marauders, gangs, or armed groups attempt to steal your stocks.

It is important to know where your cache(s) are and have an offline or paper (map) plan of where they are so that you are able to find and access them when you need them. Let's be realistic, we are not always going to have that special map with us but we'll most likely have our phone (yes, your phone can be one of the greatest SHTF tools, don't believe me, see our other [guide](#)). Store an offline map with waypoints onto your phone (make sure your phone is password protected).

Let's discuss building a cache, how to pack it properly, what goes inside, and deployment.



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BUILDING THE CACHE

DESIGN AND FEATURES

- **Waterproof and Moisture Free (THIS IS THE MOST IMPORTANT THING TO REMEMBER).** Insure no moisture is trapped inside your cache and insure no water can get in it after deployment.
- **Concealable, camouflaged to fit environment/foilage, able to be buried**
- **Size should be appropriate for the space it is to be deployed**

MATERIALS - There are many methods of making a cache or improvising other containers/items as a cache. Below are ideas to get you started.

- **PVC Pipe Cache** - Use sealant to put on a permanent end cap. Use tape to give proper seal on cap to be used as lid, suggest a screw on cap.
 - ◆ **Screw on end caps**
 - ◆ **Pipe (recommend 6" diameter or more)**
 - ◆ **Plumbing Tape and/or Sealant.**
- **Plastic Tough Box Cache** - These boxes make great caches due to their size, ability to tether and lock, and price point. It is difficult to find waterproof boxes so it's suggested to conceal these items in sheltered areas.
 - ◆ **Sturdy storage container**
 - ◆ **Lockable tough box**
- **Heavy Duty Garbage Bag Cache** - Double bag and bury in shallow holes covered by pine straw or other lightweight foliage. When done correctly they offer great waterproofing. Tie off the end, fold over bag opening, duct tape to waterproof.
- **Ammo Can Cache** - You can use multiple cans and package each with themed supplies. So if you only need certain supplies you only have to retrieve one can for that purpose. Use tape around lid's seal and package in a sealed garbage bag before deploying.
- **Waterproof Case Cache (Pelican and Rtic)** - These serve the same purpose as a tough box style cache but have waterproof abilities built-in. The price is higher and they are usually smaller than a standard tough box.
- **Large plastic water bottles (Nalgene type)** - These bottles are waterproof, easily concealable, and the price point is low.
- **Dry Bag Cache** - Much like a garbage bag cache, dry bags should be buried in a shallow hole. Benefits are waterproof properties and the low cost.
- **10 Gallon Bucket Cache with rubber gasket lid** - A prepper's best overall option, many buckets have waterproof lids or seals that can be easily waterproofed. The buckets offer a low price point and high capacity. They can be hidden in plain sight depending on the environment or they can be buried. If they need to be retrieved they can be carried easily or loaded on your vehicle.
- **Cooler Box** - Another idea for using items you may already have in your garage to improvise as a cache. Often times they are waterproof, they have hard cases, and high capacity.
- **Backpacking bear canister** - durable cased cache that can be buried deep.



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LOADING THE CACHE

PACKING CONSIDERATION - When preparing a cache, you should think about the following.

- Ease of access to items inside. Think about how easy the cache can be opened? Will you need a shovel to get to it? Will you need a key? Is the lid sealed in a fashion that would require a tool to pry it open? Try to avoid requiring anything to access the cache as when the time comes that you need the supplies, you may not have any tools or you may have lost the key to a padlock.
- If placing in tubular cache, run a length of paracord to the bottom first then pack it. The paracord will act as a pull handle to quickly remove contents.
- Place items in a large stuff sack or garbage bag prior to packing into the cache or use small bags or containers to keep items organized. Label these items for quick access so that you can find the specific supplies you're needing.
- Moisture and Waterproofing must be mentioned yet again. This is the one thing that is most likely to ruin your cache. Take your time on these precautions.
- Faraday protection is an idea for caches that contain electronics.



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CHECKLIST

Your cache should be packed with supplied that meet your specific needs. Your local threats, terrain, weather patterns, location, population, and other factors will all play into where you cache is deployed and what's inside. You should consider your other preps when determining what to pack in your cache. While duplicates are great for some items, you want to make sure you are not loading it with items you already have packed in your Bugout Bag or other preps. Below is a standard packing list. It is by no means an all inclusive list. Many of the items may not be required. The takeaway here is not to load caches with all the items below but to instead use this checklist as a guideline and reminder for certain universal needs.

Water and water filtration

- ☐ 3x 20oz water bottles
- ☐ One water filled 32 oz. wide mouth hard plastic bottle with compatible pump integral filter OR Straw water filter and additional
- ☐ 12x 20/16.9oz water bottles
- ☐ Water purification tablets
- ☐ 50 liters potable water in UV proof containers

Food

- ☐ 3x MRE's (or meals providing 6000+ calories)
- ☐ Energy Food (Beef jerky, Granola bars, energy bars, instant oatmeal and nuts)
- ☐ Coffee, Gatorade Packets, Spices/Sugar
- ☐ Metal camping cup (canteen cup or pot)
- ☐ Hard plastic or metal spork
- ☐ Fishing and Tackle Kit with lures, hooks, lines, etc. Add snare wire/cord. Add Med/Large metal cooking pot/pan.
- ☐ Appropriate amount of food staples composed of rice, noodles, peanut butter, powdered eggs/milk, bread mixes, honey, cured meats, dehydrated vegetables, tuna/chicken packets, etc

Shelter

- ☐ Mylar survival blanket
- ☐ Foam sleeping pad OR hammock (summer 65f+ nights)
- ☐ Sleeping Bag (winter, rated for expected temps)
- ☐ 8' x 10' nylon camping tarp
- ☐ Personal Blanket (poncho liner, wool blanket, sheet)
- ☐ 2-man tent (or larger dependant upon your party size, or opt for multiple tents if using BOV).
- ☐ Personal heating devices such as hand warmers or butane/lighterfluid powered warmers.
- ☐ Portable propane heater and 3x propane tanks or 1 large propane tank.

Fire-making

- ☐ Butane lighters
- ☐ Fire striking rod (ferrocenium)
- ☐ Stormproof matches in waterproof case
- ☐ Fire starting tinder
- ☐ Bic Lighters



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- ☐ Camp stove such as a rocket stove powered by wood.
- ☐ Propane camp stove. Add firewood, fatwood, tinder, and instant fire fuelogs.

Hygiene and Personal

- ☐ Toilet paper
- ☐ Eyewear/Contacts and feminine products (if applicable)
- ☐ Hand sanitizer
- ☐ Toothbrush
- ☐ Sunglasses, eye glasses
- ☐ Dish soap
- ☐ Bleach
- ☐ Quick dry towels, paper towels, wet wipes, shampoo and body soap.

Clothing

- ☐ Coat, Jacket, Poncho, or hoody (seasonal selection)
- ☐ Socks
- ☐ Outfit for each member; pants, shirt, underwear, socks
- ☐ Boots
- ☐ Gloves
- ☐ Hat
- ☐ Ponchos
- ☐ Additional clothing and footwear as space allows, focus on laying systems to utilize space restraints, (i.e. instead of packing multiple overcoats, add extra long sleeve shirts).

Tools

- ☐ Survival knife (Full tang, single edge, 7"-11")
- ☐ Multi-tool (gerber or leatherman)
- ☐ Machete or Axe
- ☐ Folding camp saw
- ☐ Prybar
- ☐ Hammer
- ☐ Toolkit with; hammer, nails, screwdrivers, zipties, wirecutter, electrical tape, scissors. Binoculars. Additional survival knife. Set of knives for carving, cutting foods, fish/game prep, etc.

Security

- ☐ Firearm and ammo
- ☐ Pepper spray or large stick
- ☐ Perimeter alarm devices.
- ☐ Ammo and weapons for defense and hunting.

Lighting

- ☐ LED head lamp
- ☐ LED (500+ lumen) compact waterproof flashlight with backup batteries
- ☐ 3x tea candle or 1x large candle
- ☐ Red lens flashlight.
- ☐ LED spotlight, additional personal flashlights, lantern (fuel or battery), and batteries.



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Navigation & Comms

- ☐ Emergency hand crank NOAA/AM/FM radio/flashlight
- ☐ *Maps and compass
- ☐ HAM Radio or Handheld Transceiver (Walkie Talkie)
- ☐ *Smartphone (Faraday protected, GPS enabled, offline maps, offline survival guides, etc)
- ☐ Small pad and paper
- ☐ Pencil, *Sharpie, Pen
- ☐ Whistle
- ☐ Compass.
- ☐ Flare gun w/ 4+ flares.

First Aid

- ☐ Tourniquet
- ☐ Trauma dressing
- ☐ Bandages
- ☐ Antibiotic ointment
- ☐ Alcohol swabs
- ☐ Pain Medication, Antihistamine, Prescriptions.
- ☐ Sunscreen, potassium iodide, anti-diarrheal, first-aid manual, cotton balls, swabs, additional pain/fever meds, burn relief gel, rubbing alcohol, peroxide, suture kit.

Supplies

- ☐ Duct tape – wrap one of your items with 10'
- ☐ 2x zip lock bags
- ☐ Large contractor grade garbage bag
- ☐ 1x bandana or handkerchief
- ☐ Paracord 1000' military spec 550
- ☐ Emergency fishing kit
- ☐ Emergency sewing kit
- ☐ Mosquito Net
- ☐ NBC Gas Mask with filter cartridge.
- ☐ Camo Net, N95 disposable mask.
- ☐ Micro supply kit (needles, safety pins, magnet, ziplock bags, metal wire, etc).
- ☐ Duct Tape rolls.
- ☐ Garbage bags.

Money & Barter

- ☐ \$1000 Cash and \$10 Coins
- ☐ Cigarettes, Coffee, Whiskey

Documents and Items

- ☐ Family Photos, keepsakes. Documents, passport, birth certificate, additional maps, US Constitution. Bible, survival guides (foraging, tracks, trapping, SERE, etc).

Equipment



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- ❑ 4 Way Water Valve Key, Sillcock. Solar panels, 50+Watts with built in solar controller and battery storage. (optional inverter). Can be used for simple 12v charging of smartphones, flashlights, batteries, radio, etc.
- ❑ Solar Panels, 120+ Watts. Solar controller, inverter, and battery storage. Gas Generator, 1500+ starting watt. Siphon Pump, fuel cap bypass.



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DEPLOYMENT OF CACHE

- Location should be along bug out route, near rally points, near homestead, near workplace, or anywhere else that it could easily or quickly be accessed during a crisis. Here are some ideas.
 - ◆ Under floorboards
 - ◆ In an old tire
 - ◆ High up in a tree
 - ◆ In an abandoned and gutted window air conditioner or clothes dryer.
 - ◆ A water/pump house
 - ◆ Buried 100 feet North of the “Welcome to Nowhere Town” city limits sign.
 - ◆ At a storage facility.
 - ◆ Attached to the underside of the deck of a bridge near the abutment.
 - ◆ By a specific cemetery mausoleum or chest tomb.
 - ◆ In a sewer drain
 - ◆ Buried underground with a marker nearby
 - ◆ In a cinderblock of an abandoned building
 - ◆ In a hollowed out tree off the side of a highway at least 100 ft into woodline
 - ◆ Under a marked rock
 - ◆ Underwater (must be tethered and weighted)
- All these locations are examples of place that offer concealment, quick access, and longterm stability (notice the 100 feet requirement? That so the cache isn’t disturbed if a nearby road is expanded and so that you stay concealed while retrieving the cache).
- The cache must be in a place that it is highly unlikely for anyone to stumble upon. Commonly checked or popular locations are not good.
- Mark cache locations on a hardcopy map, set a GPS Waypoint, drop a pin on Google maps, draw up your own guide to finding the cache point. Make sure you add notes with visual cues or explanation of where the cache is if location could be forgotten or if sharing with your inner circle.
- ICERS is the perfect place to track your cache locations by adding them as Rally Points (RPs) on the [ICERS](#) guide.
- Use Nondescript markings or retrieval tools at the deployment site to aid in locating same. Even having a map or GPS to find the general area often times is not enough to find the burial or concealment spot. Graffiti, markings, or even a loose strand of paracord can help in retrieval.
 - ◆ Consider tying a strand of paracord to a buried cache and have the end of the cord exposed on the ground surface.
 - ◆ Mark a wall or tree beside the drop site for a reference point.
- Deploy caches in key locations. Don’t rely on one cache for a resupply as when SHTF you may have to bugout in a direction opposite of your cache. Cache points could be found or otherwise compromised. Below are the ideal areas to deploy a cache.
 - ◆ Within 1 mile of homestead.
 - ◆ Within 1 mile of workplace/school or other area that you visit frequently.



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- ◆ Along bugout routes (minimum of 2 in opposite directions of your homestead)
- ◆ Near your Bugout Location.



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RESOURCES

BUGGING OUT

Determining when to bugout is specific to each scenario. The rule of thumb is to egress from one location to another when resources are near depletion and/or danger is increasing to a point to be no longer avoidable.

Superesse has developed an Emergency Response System to help assess your situation and react in concert with your support group. The ICERS plan (In-Case-of-Emergency Response Plan) is a downloadable and editable template in PDF and Word format.

Download at www.superessestraps.com/products/icers

ELG: EMERGENCY LOADOUT GUIDES

There are 6 guides available for packing your bugout bag, using your K9's loadout during SHTF, prepping your vehicle for emergencies, and more. Download the series at www.superessestraps.com/collections/resources

PREPPING AND SURVIVAL GUIDES

Checkout our digital library of topical guides for converting your phone into a survival tool, contingency communications, fishing during the apocalypse, hardening your home during SHTF, siphoning fuel, and more. View them all at www.superessestraps.com/collections/resources

GEAR

SUPERESSE GEAR

You have access to our customer discount of 25% off all our survival straps, patch kits, carryall bags, hanks, and more. Use promo code "GETANOTHER" at checkout. Choose from a collection of wearable gear and micro tin kits that can be used to outfit your Emergency Loadouts.

SUMMARY

This is a working document. Content such as gear suggestions, tips, packing ideas, and other info will be updated as we deem fit. You'll receive email notifications along with a download link.