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Week 2 of 52: Hardware List

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Welcome to week 2 of our 52 Weeks to Preparedness series, which focuses on finding cost-effective ways to get you prepared for disasters.

This week we are going to focus on investing in basic hardware items. In later weeks, we will add additional hardware items to the list, but this week we are going to focus on laying a foundation.

A good rule of thumb when planning for emergencies is that [a person is only as good as their tools](#) ^[1]. Good, quality tools are a sound investment and can last a lifetime if they are properly cared for. When purchasing hardware items such as the ones provided in the list below, take time to read online product and customer reviews before you make an investment. Also, avoid these [8 Rookie mistakes](#) ^[2] often made by preppers.

Preps to buy for Week 2:

- 32-gallon garbage can or- a sturdy storage box to hold disaster supplies
- Flashlight with alkaline-batteries or a hand-crank flashlight for each member of household that is over the age of 6. (Don't forget extra batteries for the flashlights). Flashlights should also be purchased for each car, as well.
- Batteries in multiple-sizes.
- Heavy rope
- Duct tape
- Bic lighter and matches- to be stored in a waterproof container
- Multi-tool
- For [furry friends](#) ^[3], purchase a leash, or pet carrier and an extra set of I.D. tags.

Action Items:

1. Involve your children in your family preparedness efforts. Educate them on the different types of disasters and on your family's disaster plans. Check out websites like [Ready Kids](#) ^[4] for methods to teach your children about what to do in an emergency.
2. You should ask your child's school and/or day care about what their disaster plans are. Here are a few questions that I asked our school:
 - How will you communicate with a child's family during a crisis?
 - Do you store adequate food, water, and supplies for a disaster?
 - Are you prepared for a shelter-in-place situation?
 - If you have to evacuate, where do you go?
3. Find up-to-date pictures of each family member in case one of them gets separated from you during a disaster event, put the pictures in a waterproof or Ziploc bag, and place it in your [emergency kit](#) ^[5].
4. Prepare a [personal information card](#) ^[6] for each family member.
5. As a family, discuss your emergency meeting places, contacts, and plans. Give your children the opportunity to express their feelings and to ask questions so they fully understand the disaster plan.

6. For family members who have special needs, ensure that those needs are accounted for in your emergency plan.

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[1] a person is only as good as their tools: http://readynutrition.com/resources/shtf-survival-a-person-is-only-as-good-as-their-tools_10022011/

[2] 8 Rookie mistakes: http://readynutrition.com/resources/8-mistakes-made-by-first-time-preppers_25042011/

[3] furry friends: http://readynutrition.com/resources/are-you-ready-series-the-prepared-pet_27022010/

[4] Ready Kids: <http://www.ready.gov/kids/home.html>

[5] emergency kit: http://readynutrition.com/resources/are-you-ready-series-72-hour-kits_04122009/

[6] personal information card: http://readynutrition.com/resources/keep-kids-safe-with-emergency-id-cards_29042011/

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