



**Repurposed Tic-tac Boxes for Travel Spices** Be sure you have your spices and seasonings could easily be turned into this...



Keep Bait in a Tic Tac Box



**Make On-the-Go Repairs with a Glue Stick** A glue stick offers countless solutions to problems encountered outdoors—patching a hole in your canoe, repairing fishing-rod tips. Poke a hole through one end with a heated paperclip, and attach it to the key ring on the emergency compass in my survival kit. When I need to make a repair, I just heat the

end of the glue stick and apply where needed.

**Never Dig For Nightcrawlers again.** Store them the old-fashioned way, in a coffee can filled with soil. Remove both ends of the can, however, and cover each with a plastic lid. This way, the worms are -always accessible—I never have to go digging to the bottom.



**Dry Your Boots With Newspaper**

Stuff boots with newspaper, which absorbs the moisture. Keep repeating with dry pages every 45 minutes, and they're good to go.

**Carry Duct Tape Minus the Bulky Roll**

wrap a couple feet around a lighter



**Keep Your Salmon Eggs On Your Hook With Salt**

Have you ever wondered how to keep from losing your fresh salmon-egg bait to a strong current? Empty your jar of eggs on a saucer and sprinkle lightly with table salt. Return them to the jar and go fishing immediately. Your eggs will seem to have become "rubberized" and will stay on the hook.

**Ear Plug Bobber**

For a cheap, yet effective, bobber for light-tackle fishing, use a foam earplug. Just thread the hook through and slide it to the desired position on the line. You can make it a slip bobber by inserting a length of plastic coffee stirrer.



**Sip, Soak, Scrub**

If you forget to pack a pot scrubber to clean your dishes in camp, remove the plastic rings from a few six-packs of canned beverages and bundle them tightly together with a zip-tie. It's very effective at scraping off food residue baked onto pans. Avocado, potatoe sacks work too

**Protect Your TP at Camp**

Cut a long slit in one side of an empty plastic coffee can. Stick a roll of TP in the can and pull a bit of the paper through the slit. Make a hole in the lid and the bottom. Run string through the holes and hang the can out of reach of mice.



**Use straws to store salt, pepper, and spices.** Heat one end of a clear plastic straw with a lighter, then crimp it with your fingers or a multitool. Fill the straw with the desired seasoning

**Make a Fire Log Out of Newspaper** You can make a lightweight, compact fire log using just an old newspaper, water, and string. Take your paper and roll it into a tight cylinder and tie it with string. Next, soak it in water. After a couple of days of drying, the brittle paper will catch a flame quick, and the "log" will keep its form for a longer burn.



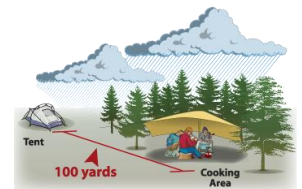
**Make a light for your tent out of a gallon of water and your headlamp**

Fill container with vinegar, sugar and salt to **trap wasps...**



**Glow Stick** Leave 1/4 of Mountain dew in bottle (just dont drink it all), add a tiny bit of baking soda and 3 caps of peroxide. Put the lid on and shake - walla! Homemade glow stick (bottle) solution.

In bear country, it's worth having an ultra-light, sil-nylon tarp to create a dry cooking area 100 yards away from your tent. They're also handy for packing and unpacking your pack in the rain.



Channel lock pliers make good pot holders. Buy cheap pans from Dollar Tree – take off handles.

Make an oven by lining a moving box with aluminum foil and pushing coat hangers through both sides about half way up the box to form your grill. Put coals in a pan and put the pan on three stones on the bottom of the box. Close the doors (lid) and bake away.

Canning rings can be use to cook your eggs in for egg sandwiches

Use a large zip lock plastic bag, filled with air, as a pillow.

Short lengths of coat hanger or wire can be threaded through the holes and springs of the summer camp cots to replace the missing springs.

If you sleep on a cot in cold weather insulate yourself from the cold air under the cot with layers of newspaper.

Old shower curtains make great ground clothes.

Make a double boiler for melting paraffin from a 1 lb. coffee can and a 2 lb. coffee can. Bend a coat hanger so it will support the 1 lb. coffee can inside the 2 lb. can. Pour some water in the 2 lb. can and put the paraffin in the 1 lb. can.

Make fire starters by filling paper condiment cups with saw dust and pouring paraffin into the cup.

If your hand warmer came without a bag or the bag has been lost, replace the bag with a sock.

Keep batteries in an appropriate size prescription bottle to insure that they cannot run themselves down by accident.

Prescription bottles make good match safes.

Make a camp washing machine from a five gallon bucket and a toilet plunger.

Placing a plastic garbage bag over logs in a triangle will create a wash basin.

Cover the ice in a picnic cooler with foil to help it last longer. Keep the water in your canteen cooler by wrapping the canteen in foil. Freeze juices to keep things colder.

Run candle stubs along the edge of a saw to help it glide better.

A wet toothbrush, face cloth and bar of soap wrapped in foil won't dampen the other things in your kit.

To prevent night accidents, use phosphorescent paint to mark the edges of latrines, the top of corner pegs of tents.

To help shed burrs easily, rub the laces of your hiking boots with paraffin before hitting the trail.

Keep a dry bar of soap in your sleeping bag to combat musty odors which develop during damp-season camping.

Waxed milk cartons are an excellent source of emergency kindling. Cut cartons into slivers, wrap a bundle of them in plastic and carry them along in your pack.

If a Scout has to take medicine, give him a break by letting him suck on an ice cube to numb his tongue before swallowing the vile stuff.

Ice cubes are handy when you have to remove a splinter from a hand or foot. Use the ice to numb the area around the splinter before operating.

Make your own insect-repelling candle from an ordinary thick candle. Drill a 1" deep hole near the wick, fill the whole with citronella and cover it with melted wax.

When handling evergreens or pine cones, they can remove the sticky sap from their hands easily if they use baking soda instead of soap to wash.

Water proof matches by dipping them in nail polish or shellac or candle wax (paraffin)

To prevent batteries from wearing down if a flashlight is accidentally nudged on while you're traveling, put the flashlight batteries in backwards.

Kitchen foil can add extra warmth to your boots. Trace each foot on a piece of foil and add a 5 cm border. Place the foil inside your boots, shiny side up so you benefit from radiant heat.

The little plastic tags from bread and bun packages are great for pinning up wet bathing suits and towels at camp, and they take up a lot less packing space than clothespins.

To protect your feet from blisters, smear soap on the inside of your inner sock at the heel and underneath the toes. Carry along a bar of soap and, when you feel your feet become tender, give it a try.

Wear nylon footies next to your feet to help prevent blisters.

To keep mosquitoes away rub the inside of an orange peel on face, arms and legs.

Waxed-paper milk cartons have several lives left in them after the milk is gone:

Make a drinking cup by cutting off the carton about three inches from the bottom..

Old roll on deodorant bottles make an excellent insect repellent applicator because it enables you to keep 'bug dope' off your hands and out of your eyes. Snap off the plastic top or snap out the ball and refill with your liquid repellent.

Make handy fire-starters by filling egg carton cups with lint from the dryer and pouring melted paraffin over the lint. Break the cup off to start each fire.

Remember that mosquitoes and biting flies seem to like dark colored clothing and the perfumed scents of many grooming products. Dress so that you won't attract the biters, and try using unscented grooming aids.

Certain fibers can be damaged by insect repellants. Don't apply repellants to spandex (from which bathing suits are made), rayon, or Dynel fabrics. Tent fabrics, plastic and painted surfaces also can be damaged by insect repellents.

An insect repellant will not keep bees, wasps, or hornets from stinging you.

Try using a 35mm film canister when collecting insect specimens. A drop of alcohol makes the canister a fine killing jar. Label the canister with tape and keep the specimen in it.

It is easier to cut plastic containers if you soak them in very hot water immediately before cutting them.

Wrap fishing gear in foil to keep line from tangling and hooks from rusting. By lining the compartments of a tackle box with foil, you can prevent rust damage to plugs and other equipment.

Wrap a wet washcloth in a foil package and put it into your pack. You'll have a handy 'wet-wipe' for cleaning hands.

Foil provides good packaging material for a campers personal toilet articles like making a cup

To remove musty smell from canteen, put three teaspoons of baking soda into the canteen with a bit of water. Swish it around and let sit for an hour, then rinse out the canteen.

An empty plastic soda bottle, cut off to a convenient height, will work as a camp bowl. You may want to sandpaper the cut to smooth the edge.

Make a survival fishing kit out of an empty 35mm film canister. Wrap fishing line around a small empty thread spool. Tie the end to a fishhook, and place in the canister. When ready to use, take the spool of line out. Lay the line across the opening of the canister and snap the lid back on for use as a bobber.

Make a fish scaler by nailing metal bottle caps to a wood block. Scrape against side of fish against direction of scales.

A rope tied to a bleach bottle with an inch of water in it will make an effective water rescue throw line.

Save inner cardboard tubes from kitchen and toilet rolls, stuff with waste paper and use as fire-lighters.

Cut a rubber glove, when discarded, into thin strips to create varied rubber bands.

**Find or Create Shelter Before Dark** One of the most important camping tips is this: Always pitch camp before dark. Keep in mind that with tents, bigger isn't necessarily better -- you'll have to lug it to your campsite, after all.

**Pack the Bare Necessities for Mealtime** The rule of thumb is to take only what's necessary to prepare each meal

Making sure you have clean water is one of the most essential camping tips you can bring packets of iodine to sanitize water you get from the backcountry or any questionable source.

You can also run the cleanest water you can find through a water filter or boil it for at least 10 minutes. To keep your water cold, wrap your container in aluminum foil.

**Leave No Trace** When you leave the campsite, there should be no evidence of your visit. Use established fire rings, keep campfires small, and cook on a stove. Keep your distance from wildlife, and don't feed the animals

When you're camping, you need to protect your feet. Wear closed-toe shoes that have some sort of moisture-absorbing lining. Hiking boots are ideal, and one way to prevent blisters when you're exploring trails is by rubbing a bar of soap on your heels and underneath your toes before you head out. Keep the soap with you, and if your feet become tender, apply more soap to any potential hot spots.

Always pack a waterproof poncho to protect you from the rain; the last thing you want is to get your clothing drenched. Wearing wet clothing could cause hypothermia.

Don't get lost. It's a major mistake campers make, but you can avoid wandering too far away from your campsite by carrying a few simple tools at all times. A compass, map and GPS device can keep you from disappearing into the land of the lost. Of course, none of these tools will do you any good if you don't know how to use them.

Practice Good Hygiene. The number one reason for failed camping/backpacking trips is bad hygiene. Keep a bottle of hand sanitizer in your pocket, and always cleanse your hands before eating, drinking or putting your hands near your face. Use rubbing alcohol and cotton balls to freshen up nonsensitive areas of the body.

Hang a water bottle from your pack. Clip it to the bottom of your shoulder harness strap, rather than the pack bag, so it won't sway.

Hang sandals off your pack for quick access at river fords, and then to dry afterwards.

Put a bar of soap in one of the plastic mesh bags from the produce section and tie it on the handle of the jug. Instant hand scrub....real cheap! The rough plastic will even help rub off tree sap!

## Surprising Uses for Vicks VapoRub

**On Your Tootsies** Applying Vicks to your feet provides nighttime cough relief. Generously rub all over your feet and cover them with socks. Within moments your cough will subside—in the morning you'll wake up a new man.

**Achy Breaky Muscles** Vicks relieves sore, overworked muscles. It increases circulation and provides almost instant aid. Use a generous portion and apply it all over the aching area

### Headaches Be Gone

Rub a small amount of Vicks VapoRub on your temples and forehead to help relieve headaches. The mentholated scent will release pressure in your head and instantly relieve pain.

**Paper Cuts and Splinters** To prevent infection and speed up healing time, dab a small amount on any small cut or splinter.

**Ticks and Bugs** If you get bitten by a tick, apply Vicks immediately. The strong odor might help get the critter to release itself and stop bugging you.

### Go Away Mosquitoes

Vicks wards off mosquitoes. Apply small dabs of Vicks VapoRub to your skin and clothes and mosquitoes will steer clear. If you do get bitten, apply Vicks to the area and cover it with a Band-Aid to relieve itching.

An old egg carton and dryer lint is all you need. Stuff the egg carton full of dryer lint and carry it with you to your campsite. Place it under some dry wood, light it and presto.

Rub liquid soap on the outside of pots and pans. The black soot will come right off after cooking over an open fire.

Keep the bottom of your pots that you use over the open fire clean by wrapping them in tinfoil.

Chapstick! contains petroleum jelly. Just grab a stick of your favorite kind, and kneed it into the dry grass, paper, cotton balls, etc that you brought to start a fire. What will happen is that it will prolong the burning process, giving you ample time to start a good fire.



Spray flies, wasps or bees with hairspray and watch them head for cover

Spray your garbage and trash with ammonia to keep animals away.

Sleep naked in your sleeping bag. It will reflect your body heat back to you.

Use baking soda to rid your clothes and hands of cooking odors so the bears won't smell food on you.

Take some warmth from the campfire or stove to bed. Keep a pot of hot water simmering on the campfire and when you turn in fill up water bottles and place them in your sleeping bag.

Buy orange juice in plastic bags and freeze it so it can be used instead of ice in the cooler. Then, when it thaws out you have refreshing cold juice for later.

Take a headlamp, instead of a flashlight, so your hands are free.

When finished eating an orange, wipe exposed skin with the inside of the peel. Insects will stay far away from you.

To cut down on cooking time of baked potatoes, start the potatoes in your microwave and bake till half done before you leave. Wrap them in aluminum foil and toss in the cooler until you need them.

To dry wet socks, sleep with them around your middle. Your body heat during the night and your warm sleeping bag will dry them by morning.

Whenever you go hiking always have a watch, a whistle, a cell phone, a flashlight and a knife with you in case of emergency.

Bottles with sticky contents (corn syrup, honey, maple syrup) can get harder to open so before using the bottle for the first time, wipe the threads with a light coating of cooking oil. The lid will never stick and won't be difficult to open or you can wrap a small bit of plastic over the bottle opening after you open it.

To keep warmer at night wear a hat to sleep in. You lose 80% of your heat through your head.

Boil water in a plastic drink bottle-yes plastic. Make sure its completely filled and the stopper is off and place it on the grill over the fire. It won't melt.

Make toast with a stick. Find a branch with a Y-fork in it, cut it to a length that is safe to use from the fire, and place your slice of bread on it. Hold it over the fire but not directly in the fire and make golden brown toast.

## Individual Coffee Bags

Individual travel coffee bags

1. Press one coffee filter into the bottom of a ½ cup measuring scoop.
2. Spoon one to two tablespoons of fresh coffee grounds into filter.
3. Using dental floss, or upholstery thread, cinch the filter paper and tie into a knot.
4. Trim away extra filter paper beyond 1 inch of tie.
5. Store individual coffee packs in sealed Ziploc Bags to keep fresh.

Using the travel coffee bags

1. To make a fresh cup of coffee, use the packs like tea bags.
2. Place one in a coffee cup and cover with boiling water.
3. Allow to brew for several minutes.
4. 5. Carefully remove coffee bag from cup just before drinking.



**Pocket Smors Kit.** You put the traditional ingredients inside the tin and tote it with you, so you're ready whenever the urge for a s'mores snack strikes. You can warm the whole thing up into gooey goodness by placing the tin on the mini BBQ grill above, or even break out an



**Carry TP in a Tin**

Nature calls, have no toilet paper carry an Altoids tin stuffed with TP, plus matches or a lighter so you can burn it. You can keep some parachute cord and a small pocketknife in the tin, too

**Survival Kit**

**Custom-made signal mirror.** use a durable, ultrathin piece of plastic. Glue on a piece of Mylar film, rounded the corners, and made a sighting hole. **20mm AA liquid-filled button compass.** It's the best-quality instrument that will fit in the tin. **Commando Wire Saw.** **2 X-Acto knife blades,** without the handle; these blades are for backup to your pocketknife. **Small packet of antibiotic ointment.** **2 butterfly closures.**



Several yards of **nylon string.** **2 magnetized sewing needles** for sewing or making an emergency compass (floated in water on a leaf, the needle will face north). **Small piece of glue,** cut off a glue-gun stick. Small laminated card with **instructions for water purification tablets and fishing knots.** **Fresnel magnifier.** This lens can start a fire by magnifying the sun's rays to a point on your tinder, causing combustion. **Safety pin,** for repairing clothes and straps. **2 feet of aluminum foil** for making a cup, signaling, cooking fish, etc. **Water bag.** A Reynolds Oven Bag does the trick, cut down to fit in the tin, with a 1-quart marking as a guide for using iodine tablets. **20 Potable Aqua water purification tablets,** repackaged in a mini glass vial. **50 feet of braided fishing line** wound on a round sewing-machine bobbin. **Fishing tackle kit** in a plastic tube. Inside are assorted **hooks, swivels, and split shot.** **10 feet of 24-gauge snare wire.**



**Selecting Survival Kit Supplies**

**Think about skills**

Focus not on the components but on the tasks you'll want them to perform. In a survival situation, you'll need to do most of the following: build a fire, construct a shelter, get and purify drinking water, gather food, signal for help, navigate back to civilization, and administer basic first aid. Once you know what types of functions you must be prepared to carry out, you can select the proper items.

**Pick your tools**

Choose at least one component from each of the groups below. Some items can meet the requirements of more than one. Fine-tune your selection to match your location or the season, and remember that you may want more than one item from certain categories.

- 1. Fire and Light:** matches, disposable lighter, flint and striker, magnesium fire starter, tinder, candle, and a magnifying lens. For the latter: flashlight, headlamp, and chemical light sticks.
- 2. Shelter and Personal Protection:** survival blanket, poncho and rain gear, tarp, tube tent, parachute cord, headnet, hat, extra clothes, sunglasses, sunscreen, lip balm, and bug repellent.
- Water and Food:** basic needs are water purification tablets or a filter, and a water container. Add snare wire and fishing kits for food collection, plus emergency rations, a small cup or pot, and a small stove.
- Signaling:** signal mirror, whistle, smoke signals, flares, dye markers, and emergency strobe.
- 3. Navigation:** compass, maps, and GPS unit.
- 4. Knives and Tools:** knives, saw, trowel, and shovel.
- 5. Medical:** first-aid supplies for wound management, like bandages and first-aid ointment. Plus antibiotics, pain medicine, and personal medications.
- 6. Multipurpose:** aluminum foil, wire, duct tape, large garbage bags, bandanna, surgical tubing, zip-seal bags, dental floss, sewing thread and needles, glue stick, and safety pins can all fill more than one function. Miscellaneous items include a survival manual, knife sharpener, thermometer, pencil and paper, toilet paper, and a cellphone.

**Build your kit**

Determine what size kit you want to carry, then decide on what you'll pack everything into. This can be a tin, a waterproof container, or a soft case such as a belt pouch, waist pack, or backpack. For mini kits, I usually prefer a tin, like the kind that Altoids come in; since you don't have room for a cup, you can use it to boil water. To make a mini kit, select the smallest components from each group. Be innovative when choosing items. Repackage them compactly if necessary, and whenever possible, select things that can perform more than one function.