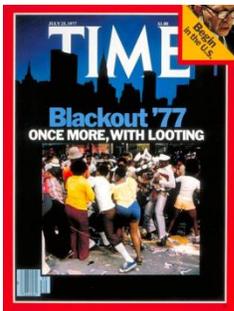


THERE'S NO PLACE LIKE HOME.

Preparing for emergencies should include making sure our homes are well stocked with food, water and other important items, in the event the best option in an emergency is to stay home. After all, that's where all of our "stuff" is, where we are comfortable, and have a sense of security and community. Besides, as Dorothy says in "*The Wizard of Oz*," "there's no place like home." <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ooM-RGUTe2E>

"*IF*" is a word often used in discussing preparedness, thus you will see it often used here. If the circumstances of an emergency are such there is no danger at home and there's no reason to evacuate, staying home may be the wisest choice.

Similar to equipping your GO bags with gear to get you through an evacuation and temporary shelter, we should also equip our homes for a longer term "hunker down." Sheltering at home gives us the advantage of having access to more stuff and we don't have to carry it anywhere.



The nature of emergencies during which we would choose to stay at home will likely include the loss of electrical power. Make sure to have a supply of batteries to get you through and we recommend purchasing a solar battery charging system, many of which can be found at reasonable prices. In the event of an electrical failure, consider that your cell phone service will likely be interrupted as well. Do you have a *land line* telephone in your home? Old fashioned wired telephones operate on a separate power source and may continue functioning during a major power outage. Cordless home phones however would be affected by an outage, since they rely on power to the base station to operate. We recommend at least one *land line* phone in each home.

Stock up on a reasonable supply of candles. That can be done by keeping those decorator holiday candles left over after the festivities. Occasionally when shopping, stop by the camping section of Freddy's or Bi-Mart, where you'll find packages of camping / emergency candles. You don't have to buy a bunch all at once, since you're probably not going to need them anyway, but then it couldn't hurt. Decorator oil lanterns can also be very useful when the lights go out. They make nice decorations, and you can stock a supply of lamp oil for years. While there, see if there is anything else you might need for your bug out bag, or bug in supplies.

Depending on the time of year, you may need to have sleeping bags. In the winter when the lights go out, in many cases so does the heat. Even though our homes are well insulated, with no heat at all, your house will get cold. In a pinch, a good supply of heavy blankets can be a life saver.

You no doubt have a good supply of food and water available. How are you going to cook it? A couple of our neighbors have propane gas in their homes, but depending on the nature of an emergency, deliveries of gas may not be forthcoming. While in the camping section of the stores, check out the camping stoves. If you decide on going that route, it may be a good idea to stock up on propane gas bottles. And of course, there's always the old reliable barbeque. They work in all kinds of weather, but must be used only outdoors. You RV-ers probably have all of this figured out already, so please bear with the rest of us as we think about cooking or boiling water.

Speaking of boiling water, how are you gonna do that? If your home's supply of water runs out, you'll need to find a way to get potable water. You probably already know that most humans can survive several days without food, but in most cases, only 3 days without water. In the winter months, with a little ingenuity, rain water can be collected. The summer months present a more serious problem.



As repulsive as it may seem, we do have an abundant supply of water here in Springlake. We also have a well on our property, which when wired to a generator and a bit of creative minor plumbing, can be converted to a community drinking well.



These and several other brands of personal water filters are available in sporting goods, camping and outdoor stores at reasonable cost. Plus, they fit nicely into your GO BAG and automobiles in case you're caught away from home.

Their claims include:

- **Removes bacteria & parasites:** The microfiltration membrane removes 99.999999% of waterborne bacteria (including E. coli and salmonella), and 99.999% of waterborne parasites (including giardia and cryptosporidium).
- **Removes microplastics:** Removes the smallest microplastics found in the environment (down to 1 micron), and reduces turbidity down to 0.2 microns.
- **Rigorous Testing:** All claims are verified with laboratories using standard testing protocols set by the US EPA, NSF, ASTM for water purifiers.
- **Long Lifetime:** The microbiological filter will provide **4,000 liters (1,000 gallons)** of clean and safe drinking water with proper use and maintenance.

There are several commercially available and reliable water filtration systems. Also see our article on disinfecting water under **MEDICAL & SURVIVAL**.