

Food Storage 101

Store what you eat, eat what you store

- 2 weeks worth or more
- Benefits of storing familiar foods
- won't store foods your family won't eat
- familiar cooking methods
- avoid food allergies/dietary restrictions
- easy to rotate
- build up pantry over time



What do you eat?

- •Track what you cook for two weeks
- •Start stocking up on non-perishables

Rice, beans, grains, honey, spices, coffee, chocolate

- •Find alternatives for perishables
 - frozen
 - canned
 - . freeze-dried
 - dehydrated

•	
-	
-	
_	
-	

Your Freezer is your friend

- •Frozen vegetables, fruits, and meats
- •Dairy milk and cheese
- Yeast
- •Scraps of veg/bones for stock
- •Grains freeze to kill pests

But what about power outages?

In case of power outage: Eat Cold Foods First

- 1. Refrigerator
 - Only open briefly
 - Meats and dairy first
- 2. Freezer
 - o Keep closed
 - Stays good for 2 or 3 days
 - Keep a thermometer in freezer
- 3. Save shelf-stable foods for last

Non-perishable alternatives

Pros	Cons
Canned Easy to find & familiar Eat cold or warm quickly Source of water	Heavy and bulky Need can opener yes, even with pop-tops
Dehydrated/Freeze Dried Lightweight & Compact Better for extreme storage conditions	Need extra water stored Hard to find Unfamiliar
Bars, nuts, jerky, etc. Good for grab & go Calorie-rich	May be high salt/sugar Some melt or go rancid

Perishables replacement Example: your family uses a lot of milk

Powdered

Tetrapak

Canned





Comfort counts







Variety is the spice of life

Don't rely on one kind of food storage: include frozen, canned, & freeze-dried

Don't skip comfort foods and convenience foods

Don't forget to store spices!

Stock up and save \$\$

Never buy just one - buy two, store one Don't pay retail:

- Stock up on sale items
- Subscription discounts
- Shop Grocery Outlet, Smart & Final, Dollar stores, ethnic stores
- Keep a "price book"

Avoid specialized storage foods (mostly) until you've built up your regular pantry

Heat and Eat Meals





Specialized Storage Meals





Special Diets

Diabetic, gluten-free, keto...

- Store food your family already eats
- Focus on ingredients not meals
- Reach out to manufacturers with questions about processing &

 - ingredients
 Some specify no nuts, wheat, shellfish
 Augason Farms and Mountain House both have certified gluten-free options

	·

Specialized Storage Ingredients







Go Bag/Car Foods

If you buy a pre-made kit, open it and ask yourself: When do things expire?

Will this work for my family? What should I add/replace?



Storage considerations

Space

- COOL DRY DARK water, heat, light, oxygen deteriorate nutrition and quality
- Be creative:



- above cabinets o rolling shelves
- behind couch/headboard o under bed rolling storage
- make a "nightstand" or "side table"
- corners of closets
- garage*
- o outdoor* bin/bench/shed
- o vehicle*

*rotate more often



PESTS

Critters: Rodents, squirrels, raccoons, bears

- seal off entries to your home
- store in metal or sturdy plastic tubs

Bugs: Ants, pantry moths, roaches

- freeze grains before storing to kill
- store in tightly sealed plastic or glass containers





Rotation

FIFO:

- Use oldest first and use it before expiration
- Mark expiration dates in sharpie before storing
- Shelve new items behind older





Use it or lose it

Keep track of "tucked away" foods

Watch for expiration dates and donate "almost expired" foods to food shelves

Review in case of dietary changes

- Did you have a new baby or did your baby outgrow baby food?
- Did someone develop diabetes or a food allergy?
- Did someone go vegetarian or keto?

-	
 •	
 •	
 _	

Practice!

- Designate a Food Storage meal day
 - Is it tasty?
 - o Is something missing?
 - o Is someone allergic?
 - O How hard is it to use?
- Practice "no utilities" cooking
 - o Can you cook with no gas or electric?
 - O Do you have enough water stored?



Don't forget the manual can openers!

Twitter thread during recent Texas blackouts

they can get into the pull top cans just fine, but the ones that require an opener? their only can opener is electric. so a good 3/4 of his canned food store is inaccessible to him unless he goes after it with a knife, which i sincerely hope he does.

so captain survival was eating unheated ravioli out of a can yesterday because i guess he doesn't know how to start a fire? they have a fire pit but it too is gas fired.

Food Prep: Outdoors



Pros	Cons
Outdoor grill Common	CARBON MONOXIDE (CO) hazard NEVER use charcoal indoors
Campstove Lots of size/fuel options	CARBON MONOXIDE hazard MOST are unsafe indoors
Firepit	Need to store wood. Have you cooked over it?



Use a tarp or pop-up canopy for cooking outdoors in rainy season. Keep the fire extinguisher handy!

Food Prep: Indoors

Pros	Cons	
Sterno or alcohol stoves Can be used indoors	Warm up not cook	
Fireplace Wood fires ok indoors	Not common skill Chimney damaged? Don't use after earthquake w/o inspection	
Butane burner Can be used indoors Inexpensive fuel	Ventilation! Use butane canister only, not "winter" propane/butane mix Explosion hazard, if not used properly, read instructions	
Keep the fire extinguisher handy!		



What now?
What's YOUR next step?