



INSIRA
Liberty. Independence. Patriotism.

MEMBERS UPDATE

June, 2019

20 ITEMS EVERY PREPPER SHOULD OWN

How to Stay Safe When You Travel

Why You Need a Guard Dog

Tactical Laser Sight



No technical expertise required...
you will have the Tactical Laser Sight on within 45 seconds or less!

- Fits Any Gun With A Picatinny or Weaver Rail... Including Brands Like: S&W, Sig Sauer, Glock, Remington, Beretta, Rugers and many, many more
- 100% shockproof and will stay zeroed in with each and every shot and is even weatherproof!



MY CRISIS GEAR

<https://mycrisisgear.com/laser>

800-370-8660

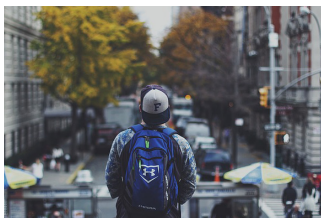
CONTENT



02

20 Items Every Prepper Should Own

One of the hallmarks of the quest for self-reliance is the “gear check.” Each year, you must set aside time to take inventory of your supply cache, adding, deleting, and perfecting your arsenal. And if you don’t have these 20 essential items on hand, there’s no time like the present to get them.



09

How to Stay Safe When You Travel

Whether you’re traveling to a foreign country, or just crossing state lines, the most important travel plans you can make involve your security and the security of those you’re traveling with. These simple, proven techniques will make you a hard target, wherever you roam.



15

Why You Need a Guard Dog

In a world of high-tech security systems, the fact that the military and law enforcement still rely on K9 units speaks volumes as to what these pups are capable of. In fact, recent studies have only confirmed what many dog owners have sworn by for years. The connection between dogs and humans is completely unique, bordering on incredible.



20 ESSENTIAL SURVIVAL GEAR ITEMS EVERY PREPPER SHOULD OWN IN 2019

Whether you're new to prepping or have been assembling your survival gear for years, it's always wise to reassess your bug out bag on an annual basis. That's because new items are released all the time, and some of them stand far apart from the crowded field of competitors.

Additionally, you need to ensure that you have all of the most important basics. It's far too easy to get sucked in by flashy items that can steal your focus away from simple, life-saving tools that every prepper should own. This guide will give you a combination of the latest and greatest products, along with standard items that should really already be part of your gear.

Don't forget that spring cleaning should also apply to your survival items. Check the dates on your food labels, rotate your water supplies, and make sure you still have enough bullets on hand in case 2019 is the



1. A FIRE STARTER

Matches and lighters are great, but what happens if your matches get wet or your lighter runs out of fuel? That's where the Gerber Bear Grylls Fire Starter comes in handy! This convenient item can be procured for less than \$15 on Amazon. It comes



with a metal striker, a Ferrocerium rod, a lanyard, and an emergency whistle.

At only 2.6 ounces and 4.8” long, this is a super convenient item to stick in your bug out bag. Testing shows it will provide at least 8,000 strikes, giving you the ability to start up to three fires per day for more than 7 years! No fuel, matches, lighters, or charging gear will be necessary with a fire starter, so be sure to add at least one to your prepper gear.

2. SURVIVAL TENT



We all want to have a huge, comfortable tent for camping during the apocalypse. This isn't always practical to carry, though, nor is it going to do us much good if we only have time to grab one bug out bag and run when the SHTF. Therefore, we recommend that everyone also add a Sharp Survival Shack Emergency Survival Shelter Tent into their gear.

These 8'x5' all-weather tube tents are made to provide temporary shelter from harsh conditions. They're lightweight, waterproof, and large enough for two people. You can also get one set up in mere minutes! At less than \$8 each on Amazon, this item definitely deserves a spot in your bag.

3. COMPACT COOKING GEAR

You managed to survive, but how are you going to cook? Enter the 1 Liter Camping Cookware Mess Kit by MalloMe. This 10-piece cookware set is collapsible to take up minimal space. The materials are FDA approved, the entire kit only weighs 14.4 ounces, and it sells for a mere \$20 on Amazon.



Aside from how useful and durable this kit is, our favorite feature is probably the convenient storage bag. It comes with a pull string that can easily be attached to the outside of your bug out bag to free up space for other survival items.

4. A MULTITOOL



Most survivalists have a Swiss Army Knife in their gear. This is a good start, but we suggest upgrading to a more modern multitool. The Leatherman OHT Multitool is a great example that will give you much more bang for the buck.

The Molle Black Sheath version of the OHT retails for approximately \$90. It comes with 16 tools in one heavy duty piece, including everything from knives and wire cutters to an oxygen tank wrench and a miniature saw. Other combination tools such as a compass/carabiner work well and cut down essential space in your bug out bag.

5. A WELL-PRICED SURPLUS GUN

Military and police surplus weapons have become less and less affordable over the years, but there are still some good deals to be found if you're looking to round out your collection of weapons.



Tim Hips, Defense.gov

The Romanian TTC is a prime example. This lightweight, easy to shoot handgun has been durable and accurate enough for Romanian military and police usage. It has also found a solid second life as a gun for preppers, enthusiasts, and collectors. The typical starting bid on GunBroker is only \$275, and this includes a holster.

6. WATER PURIFICATION TABLETS



KingaNBM, Wikimedia

Without at least 1 gallon of water per person, per day, you're going to have a difficult time surviving a SHTF situation. Unfortunately, there are way too many harmful contaminants that could be lurking in any water supply you come across. To protect yourself, you need to have water purification tablets in your bug out bag.

Aquatabs are among the most popular. They come in many quantities and price points, but you'll definitely need a large amount to survive for a long period of time. The 250-count package contains tablets that are usually dated for at least 4 years. This should set you back less than \$16 on Amazon and will only increase your bug out bag's weight by 0.8 ounces.

7. BUG OUT VEHICLE



If you find yourself dealing with an urban collapse, you're going to need to get the heck out of dodge. And when the worst hits, whether it's a nuclear attack, natural disaster, or terrorist attack, it's going to be easier to do so in an efficient and reliable bug out vehicle.

We're thinkin' along the lines of Jeeps, Humvees, and the Ford 4×4 F-Series. Some of them might not be the best on gas mileage, but they are built for all terrain and have the space and speed you'll need when the SHTF. In fact, you can get discounted Humvees at auction these days, and it's the perfect rugged type of transportation you can depend on to get you and your family to safety in a hurry.

8. PARACORDS



Senior Airman Nathan Clark/USAF

A paracord is a hot commodity to have when the SHTF because it's great for usage in emergencies. Even military personnel use paracords, and survival enthusiasts have been using them for some time now.

Paracord material is strong enough to use as a saw, and some common uses for it include constructing flip-flops, survival knots, grenades, hammocks, knife sheaths, and drawstring pouches, to name a few.

The uses for paracords are almost endless, but if your prepper project includes using it as something to house your accessories, or as a bracelet compass or watch, you may want to mosey onto the next essential survival gear item on this list.

9. PARACORD SURVIVAL BRACELET



In addition to having paracords as a bug out bag stopper, a paracord bracelet is a must-have to own in a survival situation. The bracelet can house accessories such as compasses and watches, and its applied uses range from making a fishing line to replacing broken shoestrings.

The paracord bracelet is handy in day-to-day scenarios and wilderness situations. You can purchase them already designed or even make your own by using the cobra weave technique.

10. TACTICAL SURVIVAL BOW

If you are looking at investing in a weapon for hunting game, you'll need to acquire a solidly constructed tactical survival bow. This sleekly designed bow is essential for survival and you'll want to look for one that is well-engineered, compact, and made of good quality material.



Staff Sgt. Micaiah Anthony/USAF

For instance, Survival Archery Systems (SAS) has a tactical survival bow that is truly ambidextrous, protects your arrows, and fits in a survival bag.

As of this writing, SAS is having a Spring Sale on their tactical survival bow for \$189.99, and that's a \$40 reduction from its normally listed price. That price includes the bow and camo carry bag but excludes the take-down arrows.

11. FISHING GEAR



Pixel2013/Pixabay

In addition to having firearms and bow and arrows to bag game, seasoned anglers can supplement their diet with fish that they catch in freshwater streams and salt water. And who doesn't like some freshly caught fish for dinner, anyway? To do so, you'll need to acquire fishing gear which consists of fishing poles, nets, fishing accessories in a tackle box, and a place to store your newly-caught fish.

And, right now you can buy a fully stocked kit of fishing accessories at rock-bottom prices. In fact, wish.com is offering a 160-piece kit of fishing accessories that include jig hooks, fishing sinkers, and swivel snaps that come in a sturdy tackle box for a mere \$16.

11. MEALS READY TO EAT (MRE)



Amazon

Whether it's a tornado, flood, storm, or other SHTF situation, you're going to need food that has a long shelf life. Because of this, many companies already offer ready-to-eat meals that are long lasting and geared toward survivalist lifestyles.

However, that doesn't mean you have to settle for run-of-the-mill canned tuna and vegetables, either. For instance, Voodoo tactical offers tasty MREs for \$49 that consist of 12 complete meals. The meals are made up of six different entrées, dessert, crackers, heater, condiment packet, and a spoon. Additionally, all of these ready-made meals are sealed in clear plastic and have an extended shelf life of 10 years.



12. SURVIVALIST'S SHOVEL

We can't imagine many scenarios that won't require the use of a shovel when the SHTF. Unfortunately, most shovels are too bulky to fit in your survival pack. A survival shovel, on the other hand, has a simple but effective design that alleviates this issue.

Some preppers swear by them, and these special shovels are specifically designed for certain jobs such as gardening, construction, and military regimens. Even better, they are designed to fold up and fit in your bug out bag.

In fact, most modern survivalist's shovels are the pinnacle of prepper tech, and some even have dual or multiple uses as fire starters or for sawing or shaving wood. Other versatile designs allow for the storing of essential tools, thereby cutting down on clutter in your bug out bag.

13. MYLAR THERMAL BLANKETS



In some way or another, the environment seems as if all it wants to do is do us in. To protect yourself against this fury, you're going to need to fabricate a shelter. The most inexpensive and effective way to do this is through a mylar thermal sheet.

Additionally, you can use mylar sheets as bedding, blankets, or to set up as a makeshift tent. Mylar is also wind and waterproof, and it allows you to retain most of your body heat. The overall usefulness of mylar makes it a crucial survival item to have in your prepper's toolbox.

15. COLD WEATHER TENT

If you live in a cold region or find yourself in one when the SHTF, Mylar, tarps, and other similarly-made lightweight material are not going to serve you very well. Instead, you're going to have to turn to a canvas-constructed or cold-weather tent.



Keep in mind these tents are not going to be your lightest piece of survival gear, with most of them weighing over 10 pounds. That being said, these heavy-duty enclosures are the ones that extreme mountain climbers use to keep themselves safe at high altitudes.

16. SURVIVAL WHISTLE



Sometimes it's essential to your survival to get the attention of those who can provide aid or give you medical assistance. That's where a survival whistle comes in, and the apparatus functions to carry sound further than your voice can carry by itself. Most importantly, the loud noise they emit is sure to get the attention of parties that are far away.

A signal mirror works along the same principles – you can use its reflection to get the attention of a rescue team that's far away or to signal passing aircraft traveling overhead. As a bonus, a small mirror's reflection can be used to create fire.

17. COMMUNICATION DEVICES

Those from a military background know that communication and its associated intelligence is everything in an emergency situation. To maintain

your own, you'll want to have a hand crank radio, so you won't have to depend on batteries or electricity.



Bellagonzalez1/Wikimedia

Also, if you are part of a survivalist group, then you should have a robust plan for when you need to communicate with group members at a distance. Walkie-talkies have a range of around two miles, and they provide you a significant advantage when it comes to your survival. Use them for discussing perimeter security or in dire situations when you need to set up an ambush.

18. BUG OUT BICYCLE



You'll need to tool around on a bicycle if there is a disaster that involves massive fuel shortages or an EMP strike. This alternative form of transportation involves a regular bicycle, or even better, a rugged mountain bike that has panniers and a small trailer.

A bug out bicycle can even help you bypass clogged roads. And, since people use them to get back and forth to work and for exercise, you'll be able to find them easily. However, if you balk at the price of a mountain bike (some can retail at almost ten grand),

you can often pick up one second-hand at a thrift store or Ecommerce site for a fraction of the price of a new one.

19. SURVIVAL BANDANNA



Staff Sgt. Shawn Nickel/ USAF

Don't overlook the humble bandanna as part of your survival strategy. This useful accessory doesn't take up much room in your bug out bag and weighs virtually nothing. Did we mention that they're usually dirt-cheap, too? Yeah.

The survival bandanna has an array of uses that include signaling for rescue, establishing trail markers, napkin/handkerchief, neck cover against the elements, makeshift tourniquet, sunblock, and more.

20. GAS MASK



We recognize that All SHTF scenarios won't call for the use of a gas mask.

Meanwhile, there are some emergency scenarios where having one becomes a number one priority. You know, those situations where if you breathe in poisonous air, you'll die. Think along the lines of a fallout from a nuclear blast or bioterrorism, and you'll envision the criticality of owning one or more and some backup accessories.

In those scenarios, you'll want to have a good gas mask for you and your family members, along with enough gas filters to go around. Keep in mind that you'll have to get specially designed gas masks for small children and babies.

OTHER THINGS TO CONSIDER



A good compass, a small axe for chopping firewood, a small first-aid kit, and a survival knife should also be on your list. If you're missing any of these items, be sure to pick them up right away.





How To Stay Safe While You Travel

If you're planning a trip either internationally or regionally anytime soon, there are other things to consider besides your clothing or sites you'll visit. It might not be the most exciting thing to think about, but your safety needs to be in the forefront of your mind so you can have an enjoyable and memorable trip.

You can run into trouble no matter your destination; criminals walk all streets and continue to adapt to their surroundings by creating more advanced scams. That's why we thought it would be a good idea to give you these 10 tips to keep yourself, your family, and your money safe while on a trip.

#1 Learn About Your Destination

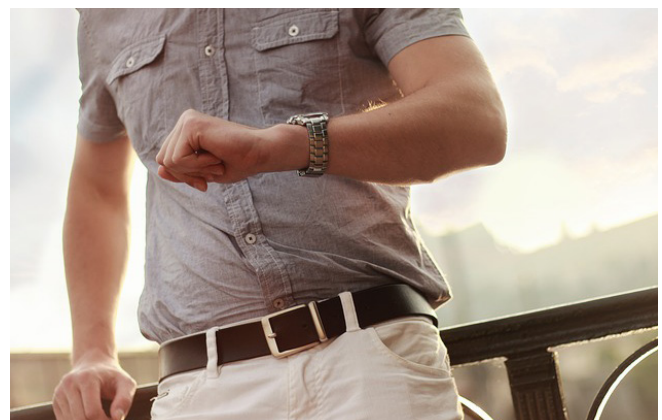
If you want to see how safe your destination is, then you should take a look at a new interactive map called the Travel Risk Map. It was developed by medical and security specialists International SOS and Control Risks, and it shows you the danger level in each country determined by political violence (including political unrest and war, insurgency, and terrorism), social unrest (including ethnic violation), and violent crime. It also takes into consideration the country's strength of security and emergency services, transportation, and its vulnerability to natural disasters. When you take a look at a particular country, it will fit one of the five categories of risk: insignificant, low, medium, high, and extreme.

According to the map, Pakistan, Afghanistan, parts of Libya, Central African Republic, Lebanon, Syria, Ukraine, and Yemen are listed in the "extreme travel risk" category.

Caution: Any interactive map or article about the most dangerous places to visit relies on the interrogatory of each country's crime reports. You never know for sure whether someone is cooking the books or not to make the country or themselves look better.

The best practice is to look at the interactive map and then look at local online newspapers to see if there are lots of articles of crime. You can also get a better idea of what you can expect by simply googling the country name + dangerous areas + crime.

#2 Don't Flaunt Your Valuables



Even something that doesn't cost much but looks expensive will bring unwanted attention your way. If it looks nice, someone is going to take a gamble on whether it's worth something or not.

A couple of years back, one of my friends told me he was going to Tijuana, Mexico with a buddy to buy inexpensive goodies and I told him it had become a haven for pickpocketing. He always wore this gold chain around his neck and I recommended that he not wear anything visible because it would get immediately stolen. He thought I was overreacting.

When he returned the next day, he told him he was walking past a shop and within two seconds someone came by and ripped the chain from his neck. He said he didn't mind that they stole it since the chain wasn't that expensive, but it scared him because if they were willing to be so brazen to steal a worthless chain, what would they have done for the money in his pockets?

If you're planning on walking around a city, it's better to leave your jewelry locked in a hotel safe rather than risk being mistaken for a tourist carrying a lot of prized possessions.

#3 Photocopy Passport and Credit Cards

Imagine you are walking down the street in a foreign country and a thief comes by and slashes the strap of your backpack and takes off with everything that falls out. Or you're enjoying your time in a cafe and get distracted by a conversation with a friend and leave your bag unattended for a split second...in any of these situations, the thief will have all of your important documents, including your passport and credit cards, leaving you in a bad situation.

That's why it's a good idea to bring photocopies of your most important documents. If you have copies, it will make it easier to replace them, if necessary. Say you have a copy of your passport; you can go to the nearest embassy and present them with the copy and speed up the process of getting a new one. The copy will have all the necessary information to prove you are who you say you are, and it will also have your passport number.

When you make a copy of your credit card, make sure to make copies of both sides of the card. If someone steals your credit card, you will have the contact information of the credit card company and be able to cancel your credit card and order a replacement before the thieves can rack up charges.

Just make sure to leave the copies in a safe place like a hotel safe while you are out and about.

#4 Keep Possessions Close to Your Body

A lot of thieves will target someone with possessions fully visible. To become less of a target, consider purchasing a secure travel carrier that keeps your most important possessions, like your credit card and money, close to the body and away from the public eye. Here's a few examples of products that will help keep you safe:

Belt wallet



This is one of the most inconspicuous travel carriers you can get. It's not bulky and can be slipped right onto your belt. Once it's on your belt, just tuck into your waistband. Unlike other carriers, it is easy to take out your belongings without having to strip down.

Retail \$13.50

Neck wallet

A neck wallet is one of the most popular carriers. It can carry your passport and money and keeps everything close to your body. Instead of just hanging it from your neck, try hanging it across one side of your neck and under the opposite armpit. This way if someone tries to yank it from your neck, they'll have a difficult time. The only issue with this

carrier is that is hard to take out money without rearranging some clothing and potentially showing unwanted lookers where you keep your belongings. But it is a way better option than just carrying your things in a backpack, purse, or pockets.



Retail: \$13.99

Fanny pack



Yeah it might not be the most fashionable item on the list but it is extremely convenient and can carry a bunch of your stuff. Nowadays, these fanny packs come with durable straps that can double as a chest, waist, and shoulder strap so you can use it no matter what activity you're participating in. And if the word fanny pack makes you cringe, then just refer to it as a waist bag.

Retail: \$14.99

Theft-protected pants

Now if you're worried a fanny pack, neck wallet, or belt wallet will make you look like a walking target, then you may want to invest a little more money in some theft-protected clothing. There's a company named ClothingArts that specializes in theft-protected apparel ranging from jackets and pants to shirts and even socks.

11 Their theft-protected pants even come in different styles, depending on your type of travel. You can get



dress-like slacks or more outdoor-type pants. No matter what you choose, each garment comes with zipper-secured pockets that can hold your phone, passport, and money. These secured pockets will make it really hard for someone to steal from you.

Retail: \$119.95

#5 Use a Decoy Wallet



So, you have a travel carrier that is hidden against your body but don't think that will deter someone from trying to rob you. Thieves know that tourists keep money on them. That's why you'll want to carry a decoy wallet with a minimal amount of cash inside; just enough to last you for the day. If you do get mugged, you'll be able to give up your wallet and satisfy the robber without losing the rest of your valuables.

If you don't have a decoy wallet, the thief will become suspicious that you aren't carrying any money and will either lift your shirt up to see if you're hiding

anything or even hurt you for not giving up what they want. Which leads me to another point: don't try to be a hero. It is better to give into the demands of the thief instead of paying with your life. Everything is replaceable except your life.

#6 Avoid Pickpocketing Scams

There are such people as professional pickpockets, and they have created many scams that fool inept people. Now, there's tons of scams out there, but these are some of the most common ones to be aware of:

Moped muggers

You're strolling along the street, headed back to your hotel. You hear the buzzing of a moped engine coming your way, but you think nothing of it since the road is busy with traffic. Then all of sudden your bag is ripped right from your shoulder and you see two men on a moped speed away with all of your important belongings. There's no way to catch up to them. All you can do is watch your money ride away.

This has become a very common practice abroad, but pickpocket professionals learn the trade from each other, so don't be surprised if it pops up in the States soon. One way to avoid this scenario is to always walk against traffic so you can see any approaching vehicles. Also, make sure to carry your bag on the arm furthest away from the street.

“Here let me help”

You've just arrived at your destination or are headed to the train station with your luggage in hand. You're struggling to carry the luggage as you cross the street or make it up the stairs of a bus. A nice gentleman says “here, let me help,” and proceeds to help you with one of the bags. Before you can thank him, he disappears with the bag.

A lot of times being polite can get you in trouble. If a stranger offers to help you with your bag, politely say “no thank you” and go on with your day. It doesn't matter how nice they are or how unsuspecting they look or if you will offend them by refusing their help. You don't know this person and have every right to say no to their help.

“The sandwich”

You're on a train and a couple in front of you is blocking your path. You're polite, so you wait patiently until you can move around them. Unbeknownst to you, the couple is actually a decoy and is blocking you so their friend behind you can steal your belongings without you noticing. This is most commonly seen in airports, trains, mall, markets, and any place where there is a large crowd.

If you find yourself being blocked, throw politeness out the window and make your way past the couple. If you need to be a little aggressive, go for it.

“Can you take our picture?”

You're taking in the beauty of the Eiffel Tower or some other popular monument when a cute couple asks if you can take their picture. You want them to have a lasting memory of this moment, so you oblige. While you're focusing on the screen of the phone, the couple's friend is going through your stuff that you left unattended behind you. By the time you give the phone back to the couple, all of your valuable stuff is gone.

If you're going to take a picture for someone, make sure your belongings are in front of you in plain sight. Or you can just say no and go on with your day. Sometimes there's no need to take a chance.

“Innocent kids”

You're enjoying a park when a group of kids come up to you and starts dancing around you. You're distracted by their smiling faces and impressive dance moves. While this is happening, their little hands are reaching into your bag or pockets without you noticing.

More and more pickpocket teams are using children to steal because they are innocent looking and have little hands that usually go undetected. So if you find yourself in this position, make sure all your belongings are close to your body and keep it in the back of your mind if you are being distracted by something.

“Bump and lift”

You're taking a picture of the Empire State Building when a man accidentally bumps into you. You both

profusely apologize to each other and go on with your day. It's not until later that you realize your designer glasses are missing.

This is one of the oldest tricks in the book, but pickpockets still use it because it can be very effective when done correctly. To avoid this scam, don't wear any exposed jewelry or belongings.

The "fake petition"

You're walking down Hollywood Blvd. when a "volunteer" asks you to sign up for a petition. It's for a good cause, the volunteer claims, and you stop to listen to what he or she has to say. While you're talking to the volunteer, a friend is reaching into your bag and taking your stuff.

This is becoming a common practice in places like France, and women are usually the ones holding the petition forms. Again, you might stop out of politeness, but it is safer to just say "no thank you" and keep walking.

The "fake cop"

You're in Brazil and a man comes up to you claiming to be an undercover cop. He says you look suspicious and wants to see your documents to make sure you're not a criminal. You hand over your information and he books it in the opposite direction leaving you without a passport.

Now, you might have the instinct to hand over your information to a cop, but you have to make sure the person is really a cop. Don't be afraid to ask the person for their identification to make sure they are who they are claiming to be. Most of the time you never have to show a cop your information unless they have a lawful reason to ask for it.

#7 Choose Radio-Registered Taxis

In some countries, it can be really hard to distinguish the real taxis from the fake ones, mainly because each has a taxi sign on the car. More often than not, taxi related muggings occur in so-called private taxis that are independently owned. Most of the time, it is set up for unsuspected foreigners who are just excited to be in a new place.

13 They'll come up to you asking politely if you need a ride while welcoming you to their country. Once in

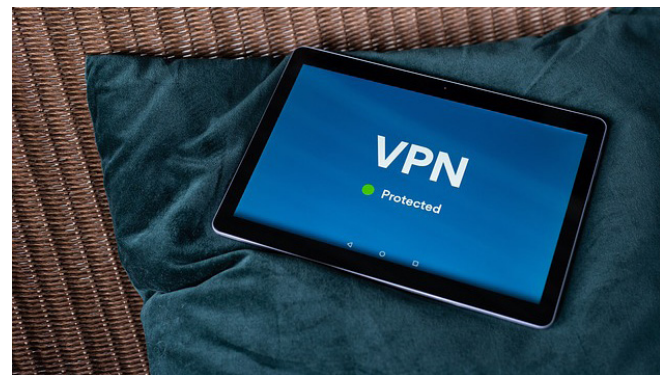
you're in the taxi, they can take you wherever they want without you being the wiser. If you happen to take one of these taxis from the airport, say goodbye to most of your belongings.

To avoid losing all your stuff, the best practice is to have the hotel you're staying at, or the restaurant you're eating at, to call you a radio-registered taxi. It will be more expensive, but it is also much safer. You can also use reputable ridesharing services like Uber or Lyft, if this is available in the country you're visiting.

If you decide to use Uber or Lyft, double check the information of the driver and car when your ride arrives. In March 2019, a woman called for an Uber in South Carolina and was duped into getting into a car that wasn't actually the Uber ride she ordered. A man convinced her that he was the Uber driver, and she was found dead in the woods a few days later.

One other thing: make sure to have GPS pulled up on your phone so you can see if the driver is trying to go the longest route possible and charge you the most. If this happens while you're in an Uber, you can report the driver because it is against Uber's policy.

#8 Think Twice About Public Wi-Fi



Public Wi-Fi can be extremely dangerous if you aren't careful. Tech-savvy scammers have come up with ways to steal information off your mobile phone or laptop when you decide to connect to public Wi-Fi.

One common ploy is for the scammer to set-up a Wi-Fi network that sounds very similar to the one you are looking for, hoping that unsuspecting people will connect to it. Another trick is called "man in the middle," where the scammer gets in between you and the access point in order to intercept your

information. In either scenario, the main goal of the scammer is to scan emails for personal information, along with stealing passwords and credit card information.

There's a couple of warning signs to look out for when connecting to public Wi-Fi. If the network doesn't ask for a password, then it is most likely an unsecured connection. If the network has a generic name like "Free-Wi-Fi," it most likely isn't safe. And if you are asked to pay to connect to the free Wi-Fi, do not it. This is one way scammers can collect your credit card information.

To avoid this all together, consider using a Virtual Private Network (VPN), which provides private and secure access to the internet and encrypts all your information, making it useless to online scammers. It also allows you to access blocked sites in countries like China where government censorship is prevalent. Most VPN services will cost you around \$9-\$12 a month, but it's important to do your research and find the one that fits your needs the best. Try finding one that offers a free trial so you can see how well it works.

#9 Be Cautious of ATM Machines

There's a very popular scam concerning debit cards that you might not be aware of and it's called ATM skimming. There are two types of ATM skimming scenarios you might encounter.

In one scenario, a device called a "skimmer" is placed on the ATM, and to the naked eye, it looks like it is a part of the machine. When you go to swipe, the card's information is recorded by the skimmer while a small camera hidden behind a brochure or security screen records your pin number. In the second scenario, a second-hand ATM machine bought on the market is used solely to collect your information and doesn't dispense any money.

The worry with this scam is that it can happen anywhere in the world and at any establishment. ATM skimming can happen with a well-known bank ATM or even at a gas station pump. That's why it is important to use an ATM within a bank instead of an ATM vestibule. It's less likely that someone will attach a skimmer to an ATM inside a bank with so

If you can't use an ATM inside a bank or have no choice but to use your debit card at a gas pump, there's a few ways you can protect yourself against skimming.

First, before inserting your card, look at the card slot device on the ATM. Make sure it is the same color or matches the rest of the machine. Then go ahead and give it a little tug to see if it is loose. Sometimes these masterminds will do a crappy job at securing the device. Finally, cover the pin pad when entering your pin number. And always keep an eye on your debit card's recent activity on your statements.

#10 Keep Track of Credit Card and Credit Reports

Travelling to a new place can be stressful, which may kick you out of your normal routine of checking your credit card and credit reports, but this is one of the best ways to keep your financials safe. Many get caught up in the joy of being on vacation and simply forget, leaving an opening for a criminal to do a lot of damage.

It's a strong possibility that there are unknown scams out there and your financial information is still at risk even if you follow all of these tips. That's why it is crucial to keep an eye on your reports and contact your bank when you see anything suspicious.

Awareness is Key

The whole point of these tips is to provide insight into the minds of muggers and hackers so you know what to look out for and how to protect yourself. Criminals will continue to develop new ways to scam people out of money, but you can increase your chances of keeping your life and belongings safe just by being aware of the potential risks you might encounter while travelling.

These tips might make you feel like you're constantly checking your surroundings and looking over your shoulder. However, it's better to be on the lookout rather than scrambling around for the rest of your trip trying to get a new passport, replace credit cards, or other belongings. The more aware you are, the more likely you'll return from your trip with memorable moments that don't include a mugging or scam story.

TOP DOGS: WHY YOU NEED A SECURITY DOG



There are countless reasons why owning a canine is one of the most rewarding choices a person can make. The companionship, fun factor, and skills you develop as a dog owner/trainer can really be a game changer that spills over into the way you approach all sorts of challenges.

One thing that some folks neglect to mention about the benefits of dogs, however, is their ability to do work. Maybe it's a case of political correctness run amok or simply the attachment some people feel with their dog that makes them want to avoid referring to their canine as an employee.

We suspect that one of the largest drivers, however, is the fact that we are now much quicker to employee technology as a go-to solution... when a dog could do the same job much better.

Fact is, dogs can be damn good workers, and they're cheap. Whether it's hunting, herding, or security, dogs have been doing it, and doing it quite well, for thousands of years. The right dog, when paired with the right type of owner, becomes an extremely dynamic ally that also just happens to be a member of the family.

In this guide, we're going to go in-depth into the best guard dog breeds and how to decide which breeds are more likely to suit your household.

WHY YOU SHOULD GET A SECURITY DOG

Most so-called home security experts these days will steer you toward high-tech solutions. How can you blame them? Equipment sales and installations are how they make their living. And it's true that many home security options, even the DIY versions, include features that only a few years ago were out of reach for most budgets.



Automatic gates do keep unwanted vehicles off your driveway, but they can also attract the wrong kind of attention. And as appealing as it may seem to have a 24-hour streaming view of your front door (because staring at that is a great use of your time, right?), we're going to recommend the complete opposite.

You don't need an alert sound on your smartphone every time a leaf blows across your porch. When it comes to both detection and deterrence, there's no technology quite as sensitive, dynamic, or intuitive as "man's best friend."

Canines have been man's "best friend" for thousands of years and they still serve on the front lines in war zones, rescue operations, and security checkpoints. Dogs lead the blind, lead search and rescue missions, and even serve in the Marines. There's a darn good reason: They're bred for it.

Despite incredible advances in technology, dogs are still used to sniff out explosives, discover contraband, and detect bedbugs. Some dogs are even able to smell cancer cells.

The range of information these highly advanced canines can glean from simply looking at a human face is incredible, but it also makes perfect sense. You see, the bond between dogs and mankind goes beyond simple history; it's in our DNA.

DOGS AND MANKIND THROUGH THE AGES



For many years, researchers dismissed the link between humans and dogs as a sentimental love affair. But recent evidence has revealed that the relationship between canines and humans goes back much further than just a few thousand years.

While archeological evidence suggests that dogs were domesticated 17,000 years ago, DNA evidence indicates that the domestication of canines happened much earlier on the timescale than previously thought. Biologists argue that the separation between dogs and wolves occurred over 100,000 years ago, all the way back to the age before agriculture... when mankind was a hunter-gatherer.

Grey wolves would follow the migrating hunters and feed on the bones and scraps left behind by human camps. Slowly but surely, some of these animals were able to integrate with the hunters, not just eating scraps, but helping the humans find prey.

Some scientists have even made the assertion that human history would have taken a very different shape without dogs to help society move beyond the hunter/gatherer stage. Without dogs, would humans have ever been able to herd reindeer, goats, and cattle? Keep in mind that fences are a fairly modern invention in the context of human history. There's an argument to be made that dogs allowed human society to take that step.

MIND READERS?

Does the bond between humans and dogs really stretch back that far? Well, if their ability to

communicate with us is any indicator, the answer is likely to be yes. Studies have shown that dogs respond to human faces differently than they respond to any other animal, including other dogs.



Human beings instinctively read faces from left to right, probing the right-hand side of the face for emotional cues. Eye-tracking studies at England's University of Lincoln have shown that dogs read the human face exactly the same way, left to right. The don't do this when they look at any other animals...

You see, throughout history, their success as a species depends largely on their ability to judge human emotions. Is this person going to pet me or do me harm? Dogs have developed the ability to read our faces and judge our intentions. Many dog owners have suspected this for centuries, but only recently have researchers been able to confirm the phenomenon.

This gives dogs a built-in security feature that no other technology can provide. They can judge whether a human is being aggressive or deceptive before the person acts on these intentions. That's why we often call dogs the "smartest security system."

Next to having the Secret Service guarding your home, dogs probably add the most deterrent and detection value without attracting the wrong kind of attention. Of course, they fulfill a lot more roles than just a security system...

If you would like to take a more in-depth look into the bond between man and dog, we highly recommend NOVA's documentary "Dogs Decoded."

SMARTER SECURITY



As we alluded to earlier, the problem with most security features is the fact that they set your home apart from the others on your street. Automatic gates, wrought-iron fences, bright lights, and security cameras don't just broadcast the message that you have something valuable in your home worth protecting – they're a display of wealth in themselves.

That's what most Americans don't realize. Security systems are expensive to install and expensive to maintain; therefore, they are signs that you have expendable income. This makes your home a potential target.

But let's imagine for a moment that your security system was hidden and compact, invisible to the naked eye. In many ways, this is the best of all possible technology setups. You haven't given a burglar or looter any explicit reason to target your home as opposed to your neighbor's home... you're playing the odds.

Even in this scenario, however, what can you really expect from your security system? Your system may record the intruders as they approach your home, you may even get an alert on your phone. The burglars will still break your window and enter. Sure, your alarm service can alert the police, but the average response time is 10 minutes.

Security systems, just like the sense of security we get from dialing 911, are by and large psychologically effective. But a security system can't

alert you to an intruder until they're already forcing their way into your home.

An officer that's en route can't confront an attacker. No matter how many bells and whistles you have, you're still on your own. Worse still, a security system has no deterrent value unless you advertise it with yard signs, but then you're back to the same old problem...

THE BENEFITS OF A K-9



SECURITY DETAIL

Let's break down the capabilities of not a well-trained guard dog (we'll get to that in a moment), but just a simple family dog with a good, strong bark, AKA a "watchdog."

ALERTNESS: Being pack animals, dogs have naturally protective instincts. Thus, they're attentive to the sounds of someone or something encroaching on the perimeter of their territory.

DETERRENCE: According to a survey of 300 convicted property offenders, conducted by Jack McLean, a few strong barks are enough to turn 32% of burglars away. Remember: Burglars don't need to be scared of the actual dog, just the attention that the dog brings to their presence.

AGGRESSION: A dog that's suspicious of an intruder will usually meet them with aggression, barking at them ferociously as they come through the door or window. The dog need not be a mastiff to create an effective diversion; a Terrier will do just fine. The dog's noisy display will buy you time to react.

THEY DON'T GO OFFLINE: Most security systems depend on both electricity and prompt

police response times. In a host of scenarios, one or both of these services will be unavailable. Sure, dogs do sleep... but they also wake up.

Obviously, there are arguments to be made in favor of owning a trained “guard dog,” i.e. one that’s trained to defend you with force. However, guard dogs aren’t necessary and, in many ways, they aren’t practical either.

A small or mid-sized dog can perform many of the same security tasks that a Rottweiler can. According to McLean’s survey, 65% of participants said, “Dogs of good size and unfriendly persuasion would scare them away.”

Of course, it’s up to us to interpret exactly how large a dog of “good size” is. In our opinion, a 40lb dog barking at you in the dark will appear “good sized.”

Through their natural instincts alone, dogs will alert you to danger outside the home, deter intruders by barking, and act aggressively while you take action (load your 12guage).

The option of having your dog “sick” an intruder, putting your dog in harm’s way against an armed attacker, is a last resort.

SECURITY DOGS



The benefits we listed above aren’t the byproduct of intense training, or even careful breed selection. Those are just a few of the standard features, if you will, that come naturally with your average canine.

With a little research, and a little training perhaps, you can upgrade nearly any dog for, and breed to become, a living, breathing security system. Still, it’d be foolish to discount the impact and benefits that

have been enhanced through careful breeding. Some dogs are bred to be laid back, other to be alert; some are bred to be protective and others for herding.

For the most part, security dog breeds are broken down into two categories: Watch dogs and guard dogs. Watch dogs and guard dogs are a bit like a Tornado Watch versus a Warning. Sometimes they go together, sometimes not.

The differences in these two categories are subtle but very important. Typically, guard dog breeds are those that are known to be highly protective over their owners and sometimes aggressive toward strangers. Often, these weary instincts make them a challenge to train and own. Read: Don’t take owning one of these breeds lightly, as you don’t want to bite off more than you can chew.

Watch dogs, on the other hand, are those that have keen senses and a loud bark, but aren’t particularly weary or aggressive. Obviously, this varies greatly from dog to dog, whatever the breed.

WATCH DOGS

If you’re looking for a low maintenance family dog that can double as a security alert system, these breeds are probably for you. Watch dogs excel in both observation and intelligence, but not size and strength (of course, they don’t know that).

Watch dog breeds are known to bark insistently and steadily as an entry is attempted. In fact, they probably heard the car door slam and the footsteps of the person coming up the sidewalk. Because of their behavior and disposition, they function like four-legged alarm systems that are armed almost 24/7.

HERE ARE THE TOP 10 WATCH DOG BREEDS, LISTED IN DESCENDING ORDER OF ALERTNESS:



ROTTWEILER: With naturally alert instincts, Rottweilers are multi-purpose security dogs, falling in both the watch and guard dog categories. The Rottweiler's size makes him quite a deterrent as well.

GERMAN SHEPHERD: There's a good reason that this breed is most commonly associated with police and military service. They really are that smart. They're also naturally protective and weary of strangers.

SCOTTISH TERRIER: "Scotties," along with their cousins, the West Highland White Terrier, are extremely intelligent, alert, and vocal; sometimes, they're even too vocal. They have strong barks and they're not afraid to use them.

MINIATURE SCHNAUZER: If you've ever gotten to know a schnauzer well, you're aware of how mouthy they can be. As a terrier breed, these dogs are hearty and alert, with a strong bark.

YORKSHIRE TERRIER: Weighing in at around 5 pounds, a Yorkie isn't going to do much to run off an intruder... except to alert you by barking, which these dogs do rather well.

CHIHUAHUA: Like the Yorkshire, a small Chihuahua isn't going to have much luck siccing a determined thief. However, Chihuahuas are very protective, vocal, and can be surprisingly aggressive. They'll give you plenty of time to jack a shell into the chamber.

AIREDALE: Yet another terrier breed, the Airedale is an excellent mid-sized watch dog. Airedales have a big dog bark and the bite to back it up, though the breed's demeanor isn't typically aggressive.

POODLE (STANDARD OR MINIATURE): Ask any Poodle lover and they'll tell you that the Poodle is the most underrated dog in history. Standard Poodles in particular are known to be some of the smartest, most athletic specimens on the planet.

BOSTON TERRIER: These dogs make excellent pets, which makes their security skills a bonus. Bostons are rarely aggressive. However, they're extremely alert to the sound of strangers approaching.

DACHSHUND: The long-slung Dachshund is adventurous and highly alert. As a breed, they're not overly vocal, so when they do bark, you can expect a visitor.

GUARD DOGS

The watch dogs we listed above are almost all dual-purpose dogs. They're great companions and they're well suited for homes with young children. From my experience, a good guard dog is a horse of a different color (pardon the expression).

A guard dog can be a great family pet, but because of their size and instincts, they require more training and responsibility on the part of the owner. Due to their size, athleticism, and bite strength alone, these dogs can cause serious injury with little effort. If a guard dog is not trained properly, he is as dangerous as a loaded gun.

That's probably the best way to think of the responsibility level that comes with owning a guard dog that's been trained to be aggressive. Once again, that's not to say that these breeds can't or don't make great pets.

A well-trained Doberman pinscher is a pleasure to have around. An aggressive one, on the other hand, is a presence you'll feel like you need to keep your eye on constantly, not exactly the kind of dog you want to have around your children.

So enough with the disclaimer. Let's take a look at the best guard dog breeds and what makes them so:

STAFFORDSHIRE TERRIER: The American Staffordshire Terrier (Amstaff, for short) is a bulky chunk of muscle with the strong jaws typical of a "bull breed." Amstaffs are generally friendly dogs, but they do have strong protective instincts that can be enhanced through training.



BELGIAN MALINOIS: The Belgian Malinois is often mistaken for a German Shepherd, though there are significant differences in build and origin. The similarities don't end at looks, however.

The Malinois is confident, intelligent, and highly trainable, used by many police departments and military organizations.

BELGIAN TERVUREN: If its name starts with “Belgian,” it’s probably got excellent guard dog potential. That’s because all four Belgian AKC breeds are built with Belgian Shepherds as rootstock. Tervurens are highly intelligent and capable dogs, as well as extremely active. These dogs need a job to do.

BULLMASTIFF: The Bullmastiff is a perfect example of brawn over brains, not that these dogs aren’t also intelligent and trainable. Their middle-of-the-pack brains just don’t match up with their size and strength. Bullmastiffs don’t bark much, but their size can turn a burglar on his heels.



CHOW CHOW: Chows bond very closely with their primary owners and are extremely watchful towards strangers, making them great guardians. Chow Chows can also be territorial, which means proper training is required to make these dogs an ideal family pet.

DOBERMAN PINSCHER: In addition to scoring high marks on alertness, Dobermans have a very intimidating build that criminals around the world can recognize a mile away. Dobermans bond closely with their owners and make excellent watch dogs, as well as guard dogs.

GERMAN SHEPHERD DOG: The GSD is pretty much the most trusted guard dog breed. They rank among the smartest breeds and they’re able to learn an almost infinite list of tasks.

RHODESIAN RIDGEBACK: The “African Lion Hound,” as the breed was once known, is naturally alert and weary of strangers. They’re also huge, which is a great addition to their capable watchdog abilities.

ROTTWEILER: There’s really no better guard dog than the Rottweiler, primarily because he’s also an excellent watchdog. Rottweilers are quite smart, but they can be a handful to train. They also require a lot of socialization in order to be well-adjusted family dogs.

GIANT SCHNAUZER: The Giant Schnauzer combines the protective nature of the terrier with the size of a formidable guard dog. The typical weight range for Giant Schnauzers is 65 -100lbs.

BOTTOM LINE

Most security systems will make your home stick out under normal circumstances, and they’ll make your home a high-value target in a time of crisis. Visible signs of security may have mixed results when police response times are normal.

When first responders are busy dealing with the immediate aftermath of a crisis, security fences, cameras, and the like will make your home a target for looters. A security dog carries none of those risks.

Dogs function as an early warning system, deterrent, and even a defender of your home against intruders. Even if you don’t consider yourself a “dog person,” you may find that the security benefits of owning the right pup can change your mind.

PROTECTION DOG STATS:

- On average, an intruder reaches their victim in 4 to 7 seconds after entering the residence.
- Retrieving a home defense weapon from its nearby hidden place takes 40 seconds, on average.
- A Protection dog’s reaction-time is immediate, and will reach an intruder in 2-3 seconds maximum.
- 65% of convicted burglars replied that a “good sized dog” would scare them away from a residence.
- 32% of burglars agreed that “almost any dog” would scare them away.
- A single well-trained dog can fight multiple intruders.
- You can call back a dog (but not a bullet).

HELLFIRE



DOUBLE YOUR ACCURACY INSTANTLY!

It's a combination tactical flashlight and high visibility green laser.

And it fits just about any handgun, rifle or shotgun.



www.mycrisisgear.com/Hellfire



 **INSRA**
Liberty. Independence. Patriotism.