



# MEMBERS UPDATE

March 2023

## ESCAPE ON FOOT OR BY CAR

**Best Go-to-War Footwear, SHTF-Capable Footwear**

**The AR-15: Demystifying The Scary Gun Everyone Loves To Hate**

**Stashing Stuff So Well No One Can Find It (Not Even You Know Who)**

**NEXT ISSUE: Save That Brass: An Intro To Ammo Reloading**

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## Stashing Stuff So Well No One Can Find It (Not Even You Know Who)

You've got several weapons, along with a bug out bag and a fully stocked emergency pantry. All of these things are great, but what happens if someone enters your property and steals one of your guns? That would give them a big advantage over you. Fortunately, you won't have to worry about this scenario becoming real because we're about to teach you a secret.



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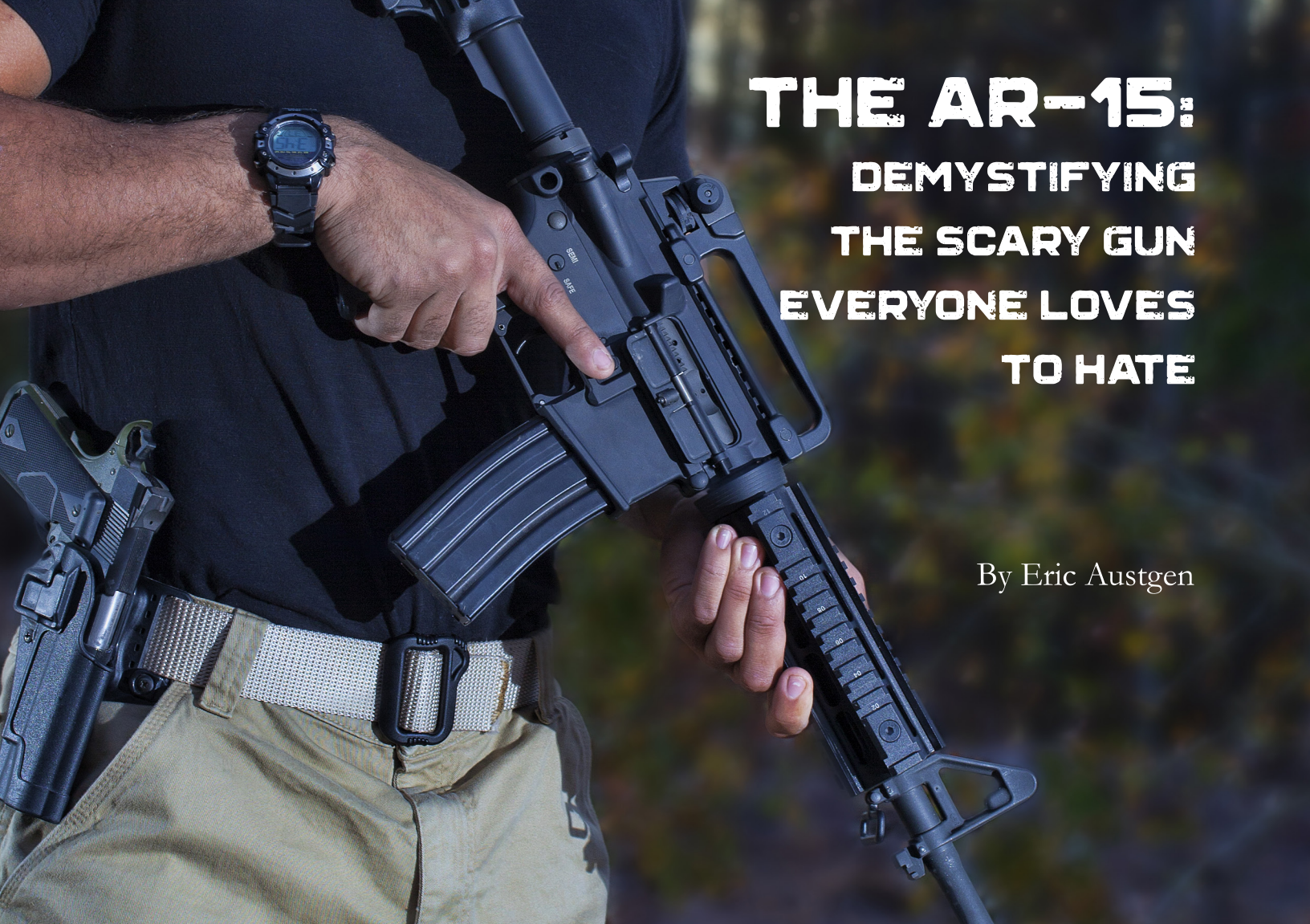
This is it – the moment you've been waiting for. The SHTF, and it's time to put your planning and preparation to the test. There is one big thing you have to decide, and it's a doozy. Are you going to escape by foot or by car? Let's take a look at each possibility and the pros and cons of each.



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## Best Go-to-War Footwear, SHTF-Capable Footwear

How much thought have you given to your footwear? Unless you have at least one highly durable pair of boots, you're not ready for when the SHTF. And let me tell you, forgetting an item as essential as your shoes is really going to hurt. Before you know it, your sneakers will have broken down, and it will be excruciatingly painful to stay on the move. Fortunately, avoiding all of this isn't that difficult. There are plenty of pairs of shoes and boots well-suited to help you survive.



# THE AR-15: DEMYSTIFYING THE SCARY GUN EVERYONE LOVES TO HATE

By Eric Austgen

Never in my entire life have I seen anything so misaligned in this world than firearms. Presently, an entire government is brainwashing those willing to focus their attack not on multiple guns, but who'd rather ooze their insufferable disdain over one of the most popular firearms ever owned or produced. If you immediately visualized the AR-15, you're either smart, or you read the title, I'm guessing both. Yes, the ire of the gun grabbers is that big scary, black military-grade weapon of war they suppose will blow your head off with an 8-bullet round going 5,000 feet per second. These people are utterly delightful and provide me with giggles to no end; however, it is not only the laughs we are here for. Nay, it is here where we will set the record straight with this weapon's history from inception to the present day, and disprove the insane lies spread by politicians and their vapid propaganda lap dogs to demonize it. I would also like to make you aware that some of the historical information has been

presented before in previous articles. It is not my intent to bore you with duplicate information, but rather touch on those points to illustrate the AR-15's rich contribution to the evolution of military and civilian firearms.

## **FAIRCHILD'S BEST BRAIN: EUGENE STONER**

While Stoner may have been a technical wiz kid in the weapons design department, he never would have achieved that success had it not been for George Sullivan. Sullivan created the ArmaLite company back in the early-50s in sunny Southern California, the hotbed of aircraft construction. He received operating capital from Fairchild Engine and Airplane Corporation, a major government contractor for military aircraft. The relationship and cash continued even after Fairchild's merger with Republic.

No weapons were produced from ArmaLite's facility, as it was more of a design and think-tank enterprise. As you may recall from the survival rifle article, at the time of Stoner's promotion to chief designer, the flyboys over at the Department of the Air Force were looking for a break down survival rifle that could be stowed out of the way, but that was still accessible in an emergency. The result was the AR-5, a product the brass loved, but strangely canceled after only 12 were safely in the armory. A minor annoyance, yes, but since ArmaLite had already put together a business plan targeting the civilian customer, they just shifted gears and went to work on the AR-7.

## **THE MILITARY LOOKS TO THE BEST AND BRIGHTEST THROUGHOUT THE LAND**

Less than a year after the AR-5 order by the Air Force, the Army put the word out that the M-1 was going back into the cosmoline, and pretty please... would some patriotic gun makers help to design a new implement to kill our enemies? Several companies submitted their prototypes for testing at Springfield; however, strictly adhering to its civilian market policy, ArmaLite came to the party a little too late. Tinkering around with existing designs, it put forth two handbuilt examples of the AR-10 taken from its fourth design of the weapon. The AR-10 looks almost darn near close to the later M-16.

The military testers absolutely loved how it was lightweight and easy to shoot, but that's where the praise ended. As the military is wont to do when shopping for new artillery, prototype firearms are subjected to some very grueling tests involving various pressure tests, firing after submersion in water, mud, sand, and other sorts of debris, plus a litany of other tests that have put some notable gun makers out of the running before. It was the dreaded pressure test that killed ArmaLite and the AR-10's chances of a mutually beneficial relationship with the Pentagon, even though ArmaLite quickly remedied the situation with a steel barrel to counteract the bursting secondary to firing heavier pressure loads. Springfield didn't care and advised the Army to scrap the AR-10, as it would take 5 or more years to bring it up to spec.

After the second black eye from the government, ArmaLite wisely went into the licensing business with the Dutch weapons firm of Artillerie Inrichtingen, buying the rights to produce the AR-10 for a period of 5 years. The same year the AR-10 design was leased, an international arms dealer snagged a contract for the weapon with Nicaragua. However, that deal went south quickly when the bolt lug over the ejector broke when being fired, nearly taking a chunk out of the Nicaraguan President. The Dutch were starting to find some factory defects and problems with the new weapon, eventually leading to a decline in sales, with the rest of the stock being shipped off to Portugal and Sudan.

## **HOOKING UP WITH AN AMERICAN DYNASTY**

It would seem as though the 50s weren't nearly as nifty for ArmaLite as they were for the rest of post-war America. Fear not, for the gun gods did deign that ArmaLite would survive to supply joy to shooters across this great land. Between '57 and '59, the company was hard at work revising the AR-10 design, with lines and diagrams on a drawing board being sketched into what would be the early model of the AR-15. Before the end of a rotten decade, the crowd running Colonel Colt's factory took an interest in what ArmaLite had to offer and bought the AR-10 and AR-15 designs. ArmaLite now had a safe flow of cash from an established name in firearms, not to mention that maybe some of the boys over in the design department at Colt could work some kinks out of the original.

One of the major designers on both weapons designs, Robert Fremont, was sent to Colt to oversee production and act as a liaison between the companies. As a rule, when you get gun people together, there will be a point where someone breaks out their collection to show off, a situation I am sure happened when Fremont got to talking about the AR-7 around the water cooler, for it was a short time after the purchase of the original two designs that Colt also put the AR-7 into full-scale production for civilians, with some examples being privately purchased for a martial purpose. Fremont's cohort and boss at ArmaLite, Eugene Stoner, joined him at Colt in 1961 as a consultant.

## **TO SECURE PEACE IS TO PREPARE FOR WAR**

While the early years of the Cold War under Ike's shepherding managed to keep Soviet missiles from landing in your backyard, the 60s proved to be a whole can of worms that should have been kicked down the road. The dawn of the decade saw increased tensions with the Soviets, culminating in the Cuban Missile Crisis and Krushchev banging his clog on the table. The Red Menace was rearing its ugly head in Southeast Asia, where the French were getting soundly trounced, and America was dipping its toe in the pool. So it is no wonder the Air Force tested, then subsequently ordered 8,500 AR-15s between 1961 and 1963, changing the nomenclature to M-16. General Curtis LeMay, head of Strategic Air Command, was so impressed at the weapons demonstration that he thought it was time for a new gun, a thrilling rush of adrenaline for any gun owner when that decision is firm.

The M-16's first foray into the jungles of Southeast Asia occurred in 1961 when 10 models were sent for testing in that environment. Inevitably, the Army came to hate the new rifle, even after it proved itself in the field, preferring to stubbornly stay with the M-14. So many higher-ups, including JFK, wanted this gun to succeed so badly that tests were conducted one after another, kind of like the definition of insanity, but I digress. Despite the Army raising a stink about going through another rifle swap, Secretary of Defense McNamara had to step in when M-14 production became too much of a waking nightmare. He pointed his finger skyward and ordered that the M-16 be the standard issue combat rifle of all four services. Period. End of story. Non Negotiable.

When it comes to its service in Vietnam, the M-16 gets a less than glowing report from the GIs in the field. The main problem was its inability to take a beating in rough terrain, frequently jamming or becoming inoperable due to debris falling into the receiver, bolt, and internal parts. The NVA were packing the very reliable AK-47, a favored weapon for capture by American troops, as they didn't suffer the same pitfalls as the M-16. So many guys

were getting killed in the middle of breaking down and cleaning out their jammed M-16s that it wasn't uncommon for AKs to switch sides and be used against their former owners.

## **THE DESIGN GOES INTO PUBLIC DOMAIN, SAME PUBLIC REJOICES**

Not much was going on between the end of Vietnam and the late 80s with regard to the AR-15. When it was discovered that the patents on the weapon had expired, two men swung into action and started making the first civilian versions. They went along happily producing, whistling merrily until the gun-grabbing Congress passed the Federal Assault Weapons Ban in 1994, putting an end to all manufacturing until this unconstitutional trash was allowed to expire in 2004.

## **I HATE THE AR-15, THIS I KNOW, FOR THE GUN GRABBERS TELL ME SO**

From the time production started back up in 2004 until the present, the AR-15 has suffered more slings and arrows than some Danish princes of note. To actually sit down and look at just what blows these harpies' empty heads apart is hilarious with subtle hints of being plain sad and pathetic, but echo chamber talking points don't allow for independent thought, so there's that. But just for giggles, let's review the reasons why the AR-15 has become the whipping boy of the anti-2A bunch.

Apparently, in their minds, AR stands for "assault rifle," and they use it interchangeably with "assault weapon," neither of which can satisfactorily be defined by the anti-2A nuts when challenged. The SturmGewehr or StG-44 is literally translated as assault rifle, making it a catch-all phrase to describe similarly silhouetted firearms. It should be noted that the Germans have quite a way with words, especially when it comes to naming their weaponry, usually for the dramatic value, intending to strike terror into the hearts of their enemies; however, sometimes the literal translations shouldn't be taken literally.

I suspect that due to its close resemblance to, and association with, the Colt-produced M-16, the AR-15 has been referred to as a machine gun. This is another fallacy used to stoke more fear and hatred for an inanimate object. The AR-15 does not possess a selective fire switch like its military brothers. The giggle switch has been eliminated, leaving one with the option of safe and semi-auto. That's it, pretty simple to understand. The gun control legislation has been so restrictive in regard to fully automatic weapons that it would be a violation of federal law for AR-15 manufacturers to produce the pray and spray version. They would get sued into poverty, something any smart business owner would hopefully try to avoid.

It has been amusing to listen to the gun expert in the Oval Office spew some real whoppers about the AR and what it can do to a human body. First, it was that bodies couldn't be identified after being shot because the bullets were huge and the velocity so great it just defied physics, rendering human tissue into shredded meat. Next, it was so powerful it could blow your head off with one round. The weapon is chambered for .223 or 5.56mm, whichever your preference, and I have never seen a single round or multiple single-shot rounds from this weapon do anything described by these master gun wizards. The muzzle velocity is 3,200 FPS, not as high as the 5,000 FPS reported in the most recent case of severe brain fart.

On the heels of caliber, in regards to hunting, some states will not allow the AR for large game, leaving it for mid- to smaller-sized game. Other states don't give a rip and will allow it for all sizes of game, while others ban it completely. The laws vary from state to state, so check yours before sporting with this firearm. But as many have pointed out, We The People are not buying them to go out and kill the wabbit, instead holding them in reserve for their intended purpose as described in the 2A.

As I mentioned before, the sheer resemblance of the AR-15 to the military M-16 is the driving point for this rabid hatred. Owing to this, it is inferred that it's the most popular gun in America due to some fantasy that it is big, bad, and an ego booster that is obviously compensating for personal

shortcomings. The most popular gun in America, when last checked, was the Ruger 10/22 semi-auto, two completely different-looking shooters when compared side by side.

It is at the point where the gun grabbers start smelling of desperation when they begin attacking your right to self-defense, arguing the AR-15 is not an effective tool in this arena. Nothing could be further from the truth. If you have a large-capacity magazine, observe proper gun control, and make sure it's one to the head and two in the chest, I would say it's pretty damn effective. The big scary look may work, but I think the lead is the better diplomat.

They have officially lost their ever-loving minds when the AR-15 suddenly becomes more powerful than handguns. I can't even reconcile this argument. AR-15 equals one, two calibers tops. Handguns come in all varieties of calibers, even ones that will take someone's head off. An individual is more likely to become a homicide victim because of a handgun. This is just a stupid argument, and they know it. They hope you don't, but they won't be able to fool everyone with this nonsense.

Well, there you have it. A short and tidy summary of the history and present life of the favored scapegoat of the gun haters of America club. As you can see, the lame excuses offered for keeping the AR-15 out of the hands of law-abiding citizens wanting to defend themselves and their families can be easily destroyed with facts or logic, that is if the hating party is open to thoughtful discussion of the issues, but I seriously doubt it. The reasons listed for the continued white-hot rage against the AR-15 are the most commonly trotted-out lies, but lies are subject to change without notice, so please be vigilant, and destroy nonsense arguments where applicable. Oh, and if anyone gets a line on those rounds with eight bullets, drop me a line through my editor. So, until next time, dear reader, stay safe and let's be careful out there.



Prepping is a way of life, and we know that you've become a part of the lifestyle. In other words, you've got several weapons, along with a bug out bag and a fully stocked emergency pantry.

All of these things are great, but what happens if someone enters your property and steals one of your guns? That would give them a big advantage over you. Fortunately, you won't have to worry about this scenario becoming real because we're about to teach you a secret.

## How To Hide Your Stuff So Well That No One Will Ever Find It

All your prepping items are important, but we can tell you right now that your weapons have the most value to thieves. Therefore, let's get this article started off on the right foot by looking at dozens of places you can hide your gun.

### Inside A Trophy

Do you have a trophy or any other large, decorative item that hangs on your wall or sits on one of your shelves? Stick a pistol inside it. This isn't a place that most people will check, so it buys you a few seconds, too.

### A Biometric Safe



Biometric safes give you the ability to go from weaponless to holding a pistol very, very quickly.

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The best part is that unless someone happens to

have your thumb with them, they're not going to be able to get to your gun even if they can find the safe.

### A Shoebox

Yes, yes, we know. Shoeboxes are kind of cliché. However, you can make them work for you by hiding a weapon or two amongst several shoeboxes. In fact, make your shoeboxes an organizational tool. That way, no one can quickly determine what shoebox your weapons are in.

### A Fake Air Vent

You can always place a weapon inside a real air vent, but a fake air vent might be even more helpful. As long as you install the fake air vent in a place that makes sense, you can probably get away with this hiding spot.





## A Hollowed-Out Book

This isn't the best hiding spot, so use it with caution. A hollowed-out book will not usually be spotted by just anyone. However, many criminals are aware of this trick, so you'll have to act fast to beat them to it.

## Underground

We know plenty of people who have buried their guns in the yard. Even Marge Simpson did this to Grandpa Simpson in a season 6 episode. The trick, however, is to stick it inside a waterproof PVC pipe. Additionally, you'll want to ensure that your gun is well-lubricated before you put it into hiding.

## Bug Out Cabin



Whether you'll be bugging out to a cabin in the woods or a suburban home on the other side of town, it's a good idea to stock it with some weapons. You'll be assured that weapons are available to you without overfilling your home. That way, no one can steal them!

## Inside Your Couch

Many people have attempted to use their couches as hiding spots. The difference is that you'll actually take it far enough to add Velcro or do some sewing. This will make your weapon less likely to be found by others, but you'll be able to pull your gun out in seconds.

## Inside A Fake Electrical Switch

Just as you can hide your guns inside a fake air vent, you can also choose to use a fake electrical switch instead. Simply pop the plate onto the wall, and it'll conceal the gun waiting inside.

## Inside A Fake Pipe

Here is yet another example of how to hide your weapons. Use a fake pipe just like the Belcher children did in season 9 of Bob's Burgers. The difference is that instead of hiding a Japanese netsuke, you'll be stashing one of your weapons. Don't forget to line your fake piping with the real thing. That way, your fake pipe won't stick out.

## Inside A Breaker Box



Whether you want to install a fake breaker box or use your existing real one, this is another fantastic way to hide your weapons. The reality is that most criminals won't have enough time to check every possible hiding spot. Your breaker box is going to attract less attention than other spots like a fake book.

## Under Your Floor

This one should only be attempted by people who really know their way around carpentry and tools. If you can manage to pull up a floorboard and then put it back without drawing attention to the area in question, you're golden.

## Inside Your Nightstand

We can already tell what you're thinking. "What? Inside my nightstand? That's the worst place to keep a weapon!" But we don't mean inside the drawer of your nightstand. No, we mean either building a false bottom in your drawer or flipping the entire nightstand upside down to seek out a fixture that can be removed. Now that's a good hiding spot!

## In Empty Pantry Boxes

Take an old cereal box and convert it into the perfect hiding spot. As long as there is no one in your family who will try to get into the box, this is a good place to stash a weapon or other valuables.

## Inside A Large Speaker

Do you have a large speaker or sub-woofer that is just taking up space? It's time to repurpose them into a fantastic hiding spot.

## Under Your Stairs



Most stairs provide enough room to install a hidden access point. Keep at least one weapon here, and be ready to get the jump on any intruder.

## Inside Your Wall

This is another spot where you can install a hidden access point. Simply hang a nail on the wall and stick one of your weapons on it. Then, just hide or replaster the access point so that others won't notice it.

## Inside An Old Computer Monitor

For whatever reason, we're aware that most American households have a few pieces of old junk. One that is rather popular is an old computer monitor. If you have one of these, you can repurpose it to stash your gun.

## Beneath The Bathroom Vanity Sink

This one can really surprise people. All you have to do is take a coat hanger and bend it into a hook. Next, affix your coat hanger to the inside top of the cabinet, which should keep it out of eyesight.

## Under Your Table

This hiding place has become old hat, so it's not likely to conceal your weapon for very long. Still, it doesn't matter whether someone will find your spot or not. What matters is that you can reach your gun before someone else will.

## Inside An Old TV

Another item that tends to collect dust is your old TV set. Repurpose it into a storage spot for one of your guns.

## Inside Your Laundry Basket

No one - and we mean no one - wants to take the time to go snooping through your dirty laundry. Take advantage of this by hiding a gun beneath the clothes in the basket.

## Trash Pile

Do you have a pile near your inside trash can where you place old pizza boxes before you run them outside? This is exactly the type of detritus that most criminals are never going to look through. Therefore, this is exactly where you should stash a gun.

## Printer's Paper Tray

You should only use this spot if you have a tiny, lightweight gun to hide. Otherwise, the weight of your handgun might end up damaging the paper tray.

## Beneath Your Towels

Place a gun beneath a stack of towels in your closet. You'll be able to retrieve your weapon and shoot it before they even know what hit them!

## Under Your Treadmill

If you actually use your treadmill on a regular basis, don't hide a weapon here. If you don't, though, you can hide a gun in a number of different places, including beneath the foot deck, under the console, etc.

## Inside Tupperware

Do you happen to have a Tupperware container that is opaque? If so, put together a big stack of them. You can hide one of your weapons inside a container in the stack.

## Inside A Smelly Old Boot

Your nasty smelling old boot definitely won't be the first place a criminal would check. Use this space to hide a small gun in plain sight.

## With Your Holiday Decorations



Holiday decor rarely has anything of interest to a thief, which makes it the perfect hiding spot.

## Inside An Old Jacket

How many of us keep a few old items inside the pocket of our old jackets? That is exactly why it won't stand out if you put a small, lightweight gun in the pocket of one of your older, less-used jackets.

## Inside Your Vehicle's Passenger Seat

When you need to have a gun nearby while you drive, you can easily convert the passenger seat into a hiding spot. Basically, you do the same thing that you did to your couch. This is a hidden but beautifully easy spot to retrieve your gun from.

## In Your Freezer

This may be a bit of a classic hiding spot, but the truth is that it's not a good space for long-term storage. Not only will someone inevitably come across it, but you'll also need to do regular maintenance if you want it to actually shoot when you need it.

## Inside An Old Paint Can

You've probably got an old, dented, dirty-looking paint can, right? Well, you can now turn it into a safe spot for one of your guns. After you place your weapon in the can, gently tap the lid on and stack it with your other old paint cans.



## In Place Of An Airbag

You'll have to be seriously hardcore about prepping to consider this option. Basically, you'll need to have your passenger-side airbag completely removed. This provides enough space for a second glove compartment of sorts, and it's the ideal spot to stash a gun.

## Inside Your Gym Bag

Another item that most criminals won't go anywhere near is your gym bag. That's because it smells to high heaven and doesn't usually have anything of any real value in it. Knowing this, you should definitely choose a gym bag to hold onto one of your weapons.

## Inside The Toilet Tank

You can get away with using a toilet tank to store your gun as long as you use a waterproof bag and check it regularly. The trick is to ensure that your gun never gets wet and doesn't begin to rust.

## Inside A Stuffed Animal



If you really, truly want to confuse any criminal who is unlucky enough to pick your house, then you'll want to use an old stuffed animal to hide a gun. Of course, never do this if you have small children in your home.

## Inside A Large Vase

This method works just like using an old trophy. As long as it has enough room to hide a weapon, you're good to go!

## Behind A Tapestry

If you've already got a tapestry or a flag hanging on your wall, this might just be the perfect hiding spot. Simply place your gun behind the tapestry. Next, take a look at it in a variety of lighting conditions. As long as you can't see the weapon, a criminal won't be able to, either.

## In A Wall Clock Safe



There are tons of different items on this list that are used daily, but a clock is definitely high on the list. That is why it's so great that the clock you can hide a gun in also works! The average criminal won't spend any time at all on this clock, which makes it ideal.

## Toilet Paper

You're probably wondering to yourself how in the world you're going to hide a weapon in toilet paper. This tip relies upon spare toilet paper and how you conceal it. Yes, that's right, hide one of your guns beneath the spare toilet paper skirt.

## A CD Wallet

This particular tip is on its way out, but it can still offer you a decent hiding spot. Whether you keep it in your house or car, converting an old CD wallet into a hiding space isn't going to catch most people's attention.

## Decorative Beer Stein

Do you have decorative beer steins as part of your overall decor? If so, this means that they fit in with the rest of your decor, which makes them a great place to stash a weapon! Take a micro pistol and put it inside the stein.

## Inside Pottery

Again, you can easily stash a gun inside a vase, trophy, or pottery. Take a moment to wrap your gun up so that it doesn't instantly stand out when someone checks out your pottery pieces.

## On Your Person

There are so many different ways to carry a concealed weapon. That is why keeping one hidden won't be that hard to do. One of the best things about keeping one of your guns on you at all times is that you'll be in a much better position to defend your home. It's certainly easier than accessing any of the other hiding places on this list.

## Important Tips

The location you select to hide your gun must be as secure as possible. You must consider everyone who could come across your gun. Do you have kids? Or a spouse? How about nosy neighbors, friends, and/or relatives?

Any of these individuals could find your gun. You must carefully choose where to hide it to keep it out of their hands. And let us give you a tip – if you've got children, anywhere within their reach is not a good location for a loaded weapon.

## Final Thoughts

Being able to protect your family and home will give you a great sense of accomplishment. Ultimately, that's what this article has been all about. It's fun to find new places to stash your favorite weapon, but it won't mean anything unless you choose your hiding place very, very well.

As you can see, the good news is that there are dozens of places in your home that are just waiting to be turned into hiding spots. Another thing to remember is that no criminal will have enough time to check every single spot, so the odds are good that you'll reach your hidden weapon before they do.

If you are left without a choice and must pull a hidden gun on someone, make sure that you get a good, clean shot. You probably won't get a second chance at it, so take a breath and pull the trigger. No matter what happens next, your house and family will remain secure, and that is really what matters, right?



## Escape: On foot Or By Car

This is it – the moment you’ve been waiting for. The SHTF, and it’s time to put your planning and preparation to the test. There is one big thing you have to decide, and it’s a doozy. Are you going to escape by foot or by car?

Let’s take a look at each possibility and the pros and cons of each.

### Escaping By foot

Once the SHTF, you’re definitely going to need to get out of the city. Doing so on foot provides you with the stealth necessary to make your getaway. Unfortunately, there is a whole lot more to this escape plan than just stealth, and some of it is going to be quite dangerous.

First, let’s talk about the fact that you’re going to be voluntarily leaving behind a house that has provided you with shelter and protection. It also invariably has some food and water you’ve left behind because you can’t carry everything.

You’ll also have to deal with disorientation. No matter how many times you’ve walked through the woods you’re bugging out to, for instance, you can still get lost easily due to everything that is going on. Therefore, try to take your time with each twist and turn. Hopefully, you’ve got a complete escape plan that includes entering the woods. Because without one, what was difficult will become nearly impossible.

### Plan Out Your Route

No matter how comfortable you are getting to your bug-out location, be sure that your route is marked on a map. That’s because a lot can get in your way between point A and point B, and you need to make absolutely sure that you don’t veer off course.

First, let’s begin by assessing the plans you’ve put in place. Do you have at least three different escape routes that can get you to the same shelter? If not, you’d better start working on them right now. Keep in mind that there are a lot of things to consider, not the least of which is how various types of weather will affect them.

# PACE

In the military, they plan communications with the PACE method. PACE stands for primary, alternate, contingency, and emergency. It is the perfect way to look for the right escape route to end up at your shelter. You should have four escape routes ready and waiting.

## Don't Phone It In

You must test out your hypothesis by walking the actual route you plan to take. Did you notice any difficulties? Are there any sections of your route that are prone to flooding? You must consider all of these variables before you commit yourself to a specific route.

Trust us when we say that driving the route won't be good enough. You'll never really know what type of hindrances stand in your way unless you walk the same path you're eventually planning to take. And here's the thing – you'll need to walk it at least four different times, once per season. It is the only way to know for sure whether a route is a good idea or a bad one.

## Map Your Route

Ideally, you'll be using a waterproof map. Be certain that your markings won't rub off. Grab the map style that you're most comfortable with (road map, topographical map, etc.), along with a few different colored pencils, and begin!

You'll want to mark your primary and alternate escape routes first. Pick out colors that will definitely get your attention before committing them to the map. We suggest using the darkest shade for your primary route, followed by a lighter color for your alternate route.

Are there obstacles in your path? Mark them up with a red pen so that you know where you must slightly go off trail to avoid them. Next, use your brown pencil to note areas that might have something wrong with them. Here's a tip – if there's

any type of chemical storage plant on your route, go ahead and prepare to move safely around it.

You can also turn your map into a way to locate water. It is something you'll need to have a very good handle on. After all, water means life.

## Use Your Compass



Don't try to march off into the wilderness without having a solid compass on your side. Yes, you're using a map, but there will be some situations where it's necessary to go off the map. When this arises, reach for your compass to verify that you don't get lost.

We would be derelict if we didn't mention the importance of learning how to truly use your compass. You can easily find instructions online. Commit to learning how to use a compass in the very near future. It could be the one thing that saves your life.

## Prepare Yourself

Okay, so you've chosen where you'll be bugging out and several ways to get there. You know how to use a compass. What's next? The most important part of preparing to bug out is actually preparing. We don't mean gathering additional supplies, either. No, we're talking about the physical and mental roadblocks that could stand in your way.

Sadly, this is a trap that many survivalists fall into. They spend all their time and resources on certain parts of surviving, but they never really understand the whole picture. So, we're going to let you in on a

little secret – if you're out of shape and get winded walking across a room, you're definitely not ready to bug out.

You should start working on your physical fitness right away. You don't even have to buy anything special. Instead, you can use the items in your house to help you get into shape. For instance, you can weight lift with two gallons of milk.

Another thing you're going to need to do is practice walking. We know, we know, this kind of sounds crazy. But unless you begin prepping for a long hike right now, you might not be physically capable of doing so after the SHTF.

You must attain a level of physical fitness that leaves you able to walk your path with reasonable certainty that you won't get hurt. Once you have, you can move on to the next step.

## Execution Is Everything

You've run your routes, you're fit, and you know where any obstacles could be. And that's all a very, very good thing, as the S has just HTF. But before that happens, let's back up a bit. In order to be able to execute properly, you must do the following.

- Keep your bug-out bag packed and handy.
- Rotate your perishables on a regular basis.
- Don't set out any shoes or boots that aren't fully broken in.
- Consider whether or not to leave a note.
- Plan for your pace and overall timing.

Don't forget that your pace and timing are critical to your success. Once you've achieved your desired pace, set it and try to stick with it. Don't allow yourself to move on double time without a good reason. Also, keep it as simple as possible. In other words, don't try to run when walking suffices.

If you plan everything out properly and take the time to understand your routes truly, you're going to be in a better position than the majority of lemmings. Getting out ahead of other people is a fantastic way to avoid unnecessary complications and stay alive!

## Escaping By Car

The option of hopping in your car and escaping probably sounds really good to you. This method allows you to stop worrying about where you'll be



walking and cruise past it instead. It might sound like the end all, be all of the ways to escape, but it's not quite that simple. We're going to take a look at what it's like to bug out in your car to help prepare you for the good and bad steps that are involved. Before you get that far, though, there are many preparatory steps you'll need to take.

## Maintain Your Vehicle

Whichever vehicle you've chosen to get you away from society must be in good shape. You'll regularly need to maintain it. Check the fluids at least once a week, analyze the tires, check your brakes, etc. If you find anything that needs to be repaired or replaced, you'd better take care of it right now.

No matter how good of a shape you keep your bug-out vehicle in, there are always little things that can go wrong once you hit the road. Therefore, we encourage you to always have a well-stocked toolbox with you. Additionally, you'll want to have your gas tank full, and be sure to carry road flares, jumper cables, antifreeze, oil, wiper blades, hoses, extra belts, your spare tire, and a jack.

# Your Escape Route

Just as you'll need to run through the route if you're planning on walking, you'll need to practice taking your chosen routes. Is the fastest route going to work well for your particular vehicle? Are there any spots where you should abandon the more popular road? All of this and more will need to be figured out by you before you bug out.

Remember: when it comes down to it, sometimes the safest route is also the busiest. Be prepared for any eventuality, including the chance that you could end up stranded on the road. If this happens, you'll need to revert to your walking plan instead.

# Storage Capacity

One good thing about planning to bug out in your vehicle is that you have abundant storage space. Several different things could end up happening.

Here is the point of the article where we'll look very carefully at the difference between having more storage space and carrying everything you'll need on your back. The reality is that there are pros and cons to both approaches, so neither is really the most attractive option. If we had to choose, however, we'd go with taking on the difficulties of a vehicle.

Here are just a few of the many things you should always keep packed inside your car.

- Cell phone, GPS phone, two-way radio, etc.
- Socket wrench, wrenches, cable ties, screwdrivers, etc.
- Always keep at least two bottles of water, per person, in your car
- Protein bars, meat sticks, trail mix, jerky sticks, etc.

# first Aid Kit

This one is so important that we're putting it in its own category. Always, always, always have at least one first aid kit with you in your vehicle. And we're not talking about a super small kit that will barely

help you with one emergency. We mean a real, well-packed first aid kit that can help you get through one tough spot after another.

# Car And first Aid

A much more comprehensive list of things that your vehicle absolutely must have includes:

- Black plastic bags to carry supplies
- Medical kit
- Tourniquet
- Emergency flares
- Fire extinguisher
- Portable air compressor
- Tire sealant
- Camouflage tarp
- Basic tool kit
- Spare tire
- Folding camp shovel
- Traction ladder (to help you get out of pits, etc.)
- Jerry can
- Motor oil
- Wiper fluid, hoses, fan belts, spare fuses
- Window breaker
- Seatbelt cutter
- Tie-downs
- Roof racks
- Towing straps
- Winch saw

As you can see, your vehicle should carry a lot of supplies. This takes the place of you having to carry them. Of course, most of these extra supplies are for your car only. It provides an example of the pros and cons of bugging out in a vehicle.

On the surface, it seems like a fantastic idea because you can fit so much inside your car. Once it becomes filled with car items, however, you might change your mind and decide to go on foot.



# Survival Items

Along with all the necessary tools, etc. to keep your car running, you'll also want to ensure you have the following items. You'll have to carry many of these, whether you're escaping in a car or by foot. Failure to bring the right items with you can make it so much harder to survive.

- Food supplies
- At least a case of bottled water
- Weatherproof clothing
- Firewood and fire-starter kit
- Camping gear, tents, tarps, etc.
- Spare chargers for your cell phone
- Walkie talkies or ham radio
- Custom solar fitments
- Night vision goggles

# What Accessories Does Your Car Need?

We've already presented two lists of items you'll need to bug out with your car. Now, it's time to take a look at list #3.

- **Lighting Kit** - You'll attract more attention with a lighting kit, but it'll also let you see when it's pitch black out.
- **Run-Flat Tires** - Passenger vehicles (not counting SUVs and trucks) can often get high-end run-flat tires. These tires make it so you can drive hundreds of miles on a flat tire.
- **Side Pontoons And Roof Racks** - These extra storage spots will come in handy when the SHTF.
- **Grill Guard And Bumper Bar** - These handy tools can help you keep other vehicles from hitting your car.
- **Extended Range Gas Tank** - SUVs, trucks, and bikes are all eligible for an extended-range

gas tank. Prevent yourself from having to make too many stops.

- **Security Tint** - Find a tint with about 30% darkness. It will prevent smash-and-grab thefts from casing out the inside of your car, but it won't be so dark that you can't see.

# Driving To Your Bug Out Location

Keep an eye on your battery status and every other important feature of your vehicle. Determine in advance how many miles you'll need to drive, and always give yourself a little extra. Whenever you must travel using a dirt road, remember to drive slowly and stick to the middle of the road.

And, of course, try to avoid using roads that will be bogged down. Whenever possible, don't go on a state freeway, highway, or major roadway because traffic jams are a very real possibility.

Sign up for a defensive driving class and learn about how to avoid hijackers. Once you're on the road, don't leave your vehicle's side. If you absolutely must do so, park the car in a discrete spot and cover it with your camo tarp.

Finally, memorize your route. It is the best thing you can do in a completely unknown situation. That way, if the internet goes down, it won't affect you.

# final Thoughts

Choosing whether to bug out on foot or in a vehicle is one of the most critical tasks you can do. If you've got the time and money to invest in your survivalist plans, how about not choosing until it really counts? This third option would mean having your vehicle and yourself ready to bug out with a moment's notice and is probably the best overall solution.

If you're unable to get both ready, though, choose the option that makes the most sense for you, your lifestyle, and the particular terrain you'd have to walk across to get to your final destination.

How much thought have you given to your footwear? Unless you have at least one highly durable pair of boots, you're not ready for when the SHTF. And let me tell you, forgetting an item as essential as your shoes is really going to hurt. Before you know it, your sneakers will have broken down, and it will be excruciatingly painful to stay on the move.

Fortunately, avoiding all of this isn't that difficult. There are plenty of pairs of shoes and boots well-suited to help you survive. Before we take a look at these shoes, however, let's first examine how to find the perfect fit!

## PICKING THE RIGHT SIZE

There is really only one way to tell if boots will fit you correctly. Yes, that's right; try them on, and we don't mean for just a few seconds. Instead, once you've found a pair of boots that seems to work, take the time to wear them almost every day. As long as they don't start to rub and hold up well after a couple of months, you know you've found the right pair. We suggest buying - at a minimum - one other pair. It will probably work best if you purchase at least two to three pairs, though.

## WHAT TYPE OF SHOES SHOULD I GET?

You're probably thinking the lighter the shoe, the better your results, right? But there is definitely such a thing as too light. What you want to do is find durable shoes and boots that won't weigh your feet down too much. Therefore, we recommend getting a good pair of boots that are light but will still protect your feet.

One thing you'll want to consider carefully is what fastening system the boots use. You can replace shoelaces but not zippers. You'll also need to decide between leather and synthetic boots. Leather holds up better, but there are a lot of good things about synthetic, too. For instance, choosing synthetic boots means they are lighter, easier to break in, and more breathable. On the other hand, leather boots are likely to last a lot longer.



Weatherproofing will also matter unless you're going to be walking around in the desert. That's because waterproofing material will make your boots less breathable.

## BEST OF THE BEST BOOTS

You'll quickly figure out that certain boots are more or less likely to help you survive. It also depends on the environment. Pay attention to the following descriptions to help you find the perfect boot for you!

### Georgia Boot G9382 Logger Work Shoe

Are you planning to stay in more of an urban area?



Then this pair of boots by Georgia Boot is perfect. This durable option will provide your feet with extra protection, which is critical after the SHTF. After all, who knows what type of condition an urban area will be in once society begins to collapse? At least when you're walking around in these boots, you won't have to worry about nails, etc., due to the toughness of the leather.

Another nice touch is the tread on this pair of boots. We won't say it's impossible to fall down, but the tread should make it much harder. It'll also keep a firm grip if you happen to wander into a more rural area.

Pros:

- Toe cap and steel shank to protect your foot
- Durable
- Waterproof
- Meets electrical hazard safety standards
- Insulated

Cons:

- Heavy
- Expensive
- Will take a while to break in

### Rocky Unisex Knee High Boot



These are the best hunting boots available, especially if you live in an area with snakes. In fact, they offer a whopping 16" of protection, which means you should remain safe from every snake in the area. They're also waterproof, but they don't have much in the way of insulation. Therefore, this is going to have to be your warm-weather boot.

The lacing system can take a bit of getting used to, so practice with it until you can achieve a firm ankle fit. As far as hunting boots go, these are durable and high-quality, won't need much breaking in, and are comfortable.

Pros:

- Good traction
- Provides protection from snake bites
- Waterproof

Cons:

- Uninsulated
- Their comfort level may drop during a long hike

### Salomon Forces Quest 4D GTX 2 EN Tactical Shoes



If you plan to spend a lot of your time hiking, you'll definitely want to look into these hiking boots. These boots are waterproof, synthetic, and have a rubber sole that will grip the terrain to hold up to long, wet days on the trail.

You'll receive decent ankle support in these boots, and you'll have a shorter break-in period. One thing to watch for is that the lace-locking eyelets can come loose, so be sure to verify that yours are properly attached before your warranty runs out.

Pros:

- Sole can grip a variety of terrains
- Decent ankle support
- Waterproof
- Comfortable for daily hiking

Cons:

- Limited foot protection against urban hazards
- Lace eyelets may have a quality control issue

### Garmont Men's T8 Bifida Tactical Military



Are you trying to survive in a military-like level of awfulness? While we can't do much about that, we can suggest that these military-grade boots will make everything at least a tiny bit better.

You'll enjoy reasonable ankle support and be able to grip a variety of terrains. The cushioned insole will also provide extra assistance when it's time to carry a heavy backpack. Please note that these boots are not waterproof, so you may wish to spray them with a waterproofing material. There are boots that are a lot lighter, but at least these ones offer comfort and durability.

Pros:

- Grippy sole
- Great breathability
- Durable

Cons:

- Not waterproof
- Expensive

### Danner Women's Trail 2650 3" Hiking Shoe



We're aware that this entry isn't technically for a boot, but we've included it anyway. Why? Because these are one of the best pairs of shoes a woman can wear during the summer.

This shoe will give you a lightweight performance that makes hiking easier. They're also extremely durable and come with not one but two extra pairs of shoelaces.

One thing that people really like about this shoe is that it doesn't require much breaking in. However, there is also a dark side: they don't provide much in the way of sole and toe protection. Georgia Loggers are a much better option if you'll be walking in an area with a lot of broken glass, etc. But if you want comfort, you can't really find a better pair of shoes.

Pros:

- Very easy to break in
- Extremely comfortable
- Spare pair of laces
- Durable construction

Cons:

- They provide no protection from snakes
- Limited foot protection

### Baffin Wolf Snow Boot



When winter comes, you'll need to wear a special kind of boot. Fortunately, this pair from Baffin has all the right stuff to keep you warm. They're rated to hold up to -40 degrees Fahrenheit, and they have a removable inner boot made from foam.

this article. In winter, your laces can freeze. The manufacturer decided to use a buckle system to avoid this. It makes them much easier to put on and take off.

Pros:

- Very warm
- Easy to take off and on
- Waterproof
- Grips well on ice and snow

Cons:

- Not going to be good for walking long distances

### Pajar Galaxia Women's Insulated Winter Boot



Is -40 degrees Fahrenheit colder than you'll ever experience? Then you might want to check out Pajar Galaxia's fantastic winter boots for women. These ones are rated to -25 degrees Fahrenheit, and they boast that they can keep your feet dry and warm in almost all circumstances.

One thing to note is that the fit of these boots is very snug. Therefore, you may want to order a half size or a size up. That way, you can wear thick socks. Additionally, this particular style is best-suited to women who have slimmer calves.

Pros:

- Comfortable for walking
- Warm
- Waterproof

Cons:

- Zipper fastener

### Danner Vicious Work Boots



We've chosen these boots from Danner as our number one overall pick. This non-traditional safety boot offers a composite safety toe. In other words, they'll keep your toes safe without increasing the weight.

Other perks of choosing the Danner boot include a cushioned footbed, an ergonomic fit, a waterproof Gore-Tex membrane, and an overall level of comfort. It's no wonder that this boot is a winner! Danner's boots will hold up for years, regardless of the conditions surrounding you.

Pros:

- Lightweight
- Comfortable
- Safety toe
- Long-lasting and durable

Cons:

- Expensive

### **Timberland White Ledge Mid Waterproof Hiking Boot**



These boots from Timberland are among the best-selling boots on Amazon, so let's take a closer look at them. They offer many perks, including premium full-grain leather uppers, rustproof speed lace hardware, and seam-sealed waterproof construction. They've also got a 4.5-star rating out of almost 56,000 reviews.

They seem pretty perfect, right? Well, there is one aspect of these boots that isn't very good: they fail to offer adequate ankle support. And if you've ever had any difficulty with your ankles, this won't be a nice surprise.

Pros:

- Waterproof
- Lace hardware is rustproof
- Good for rainy or snowy days

Cons:

- Poor ankle support

### **NORTIV Ankle High Waterproof Hiking Boots Outdoor Lightweight Shoes Trekking Trails**

Are you in the market for a pair of budget-friendly boots? Many of the boots we've looked at so far cost more than \$100, but this pair from NORTIV will cost less than \$62 on Amazon.



The thing that NORTIV put ahead of everything else was comfort. This will be nice when the SHTF because the last thing you want to worry about is your boots dragging your feet down. These boots are also lightweight and

feature an anti-fatigue midsole. Additionally, the tread on these boots will ensure you don't slip or fall!

Pros:

- Shock-absorption midsole
- Padded collar and tongue protect your ankle
- Water-resistant

Cons:

- Water resistance only lasts four hours, then must be reapplied

### **Skechers Relment Pelmo Hiking Boot**



This lace-up, waterproof boot from Skechers offers a relaxed fit and air-cooled memory foam. They may not be the best boots around, but they provide a second option for people who don't

want to spend more than \$70.

The best part about these boots is their grip. If you're in a slippery situation, you'll be extremely glad you've got these boots on your side.

On the negative side, the memory foam inside the boots just flat out doesn't last. Therefore, don't buy these boots because of the marketing hype. Instead, you should purchase these boots if you can't afford to spend more than \$70.

Pros:

- Very good grip
- Cheap
- Waterproof

Cons:

- Poor-quality memory foam

## MAKING SURE YOUR BOOTS FIT RIGHT

Now that you have a good idea of the right pair of boots to wear, let's transition into how to ensure they fit correctly. This will require taking the time to measure your feet before you pick a size.

- Put your socks on.
- Put the paper on the floor.
- Sit in the chair and place your foot flat down on the paper.
- Place a brick or book behind your foot (just touching your heel).
- Place a second brick or book so it's touching your toe.
- Mark down both measurements.
- Move the bricks or books to each side of your foot.
- Mark the width.

What you've done is created a foot measuring chart. You should be able to get an impeccable measurement of your foot. Even with this, you'll still want to try on a few pairs of boots to find the one that fits right for you.

## PAY ATTENTION TO YOUR TOE BOX

It is advice that pretty much everyone gives out, but we're going to say it again because we know there are still people who haven't taken this in. Your boots **MUST** have some room for your toes. They'll be able to swell naturally and still have enough room. Therefore, don't go down a size to try to eliminate this space. Doing so can cause pain, squashed toes, and possible inflammation.

## GETTING A GOOD FIT AROUND THE HEEL

Are you dealing with a bit of slippage around the heel? The reality is that a bit of slippage and rubbing is completely normal. If your boots didn't have this feature, your feet would be constrained.

Of course, it becomes a huge problem when there is too much slippage. Before you give up on them altogether, try pushing back on your heel before you lace

your boots. Adjusting the tongue pad may also take care of this issue. However, if it still feels too big, try the next size down.

## DO YOU HAVE THE PERFECT WIDTH?

Getting the perfect width is more important than most people realize. Essentially, you'll want to try the boots on and determine if there's about an inch of extra space on each side. Because that's exactly how your boots should fit.

Yes, your shoes will widen a tiny bit on their own. The reality is that they'll only stretch about a millimeter, so don't rely on this to suddenly make a tight pair of boots fit perfectly.

## FINAL THOUGHTS

Finding a good pair of boots may take you some time. After all, each person's feet are different, which means that what's perfect for you may not work for another. This is the reason it's beyond important for you to shop for boots for yourself. Don't trust anyone else to take on this critical duty.

The best thing about getting a really good pair of boots is that they should last for several years. If you think about *The Walking Dead* and Rick's boots, you'll know exactly what we mean. That's why so many of them cost more than \$100. It might be a bit of a financial squeeze right now, but you will be so glad you bought them once the SHTF.

Don't buy your boots really quickly, though. Instead, try on several pairs. Walk around in them for at least 10 minutes. Can you really see yourself wearing the pair you've just tried on for the next few years? If so, fantastic! If not, keep looking.

Ultimately, everyone has a perfect pair of boots. It may take you a while to locate them, but we're fully confident that you can find a pair that fit like they were made solely for you!

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