



MEMBERS UPDATE

September 2023

How To Get Free Land In The USA

A Feminine Guide To Firearms

DIY Gunsmithing: Semi-Auto Handgun Edition

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(Yes, Including Toilet Paper)

7 Critical Steps When You Find Yourself In An Emergency

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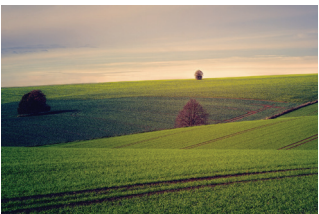
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How To Get Free Land In The USA

Have you ever wished that you were alive back when the Homesteading Act of 1862 went into effect? Well, guess what? There are several places in the US where you can grab a free plot of land, as long as you qualify. So, which free land are you going to turn into either your home or a survivalist cabin?

Next Issue: How To Plan Ahead For Things Your Spouse Might Forget



A Feminine Guide To Firearms

By Eric Austgen

In all honesty, I should have written this a long time ago when we first became acquainted. The thing is that I am forever putting the cart before the horse. So now I find myself trying to rectify these oversights and getting my collective stuff together so that we can all be on the same sheet of music from here to eternity. I wish to assure all of my lady readers that I have not forgotten about you, and even though many pieces have been geared toward the gents out there, you ladies have never been far from my mind. However, the real impetus for this piece, in part, was my daughter. She didn't recommend the topic. Rather, it was a series of events of a providential nature and her sporadic laziness that caused her and her friends to miss a shooting down in Colorado Springs a few months back. This and the fact that my daughter has to wait another year to legally buy and own a handgun, a fact that has me seething, not only for her, but for the majority of women left to their own devices well before the age of 21. This article will focus more on self-defense than recreational pursuits, partly because many women new to firearms are not buying them for the next competition match with the gals.



Getting Started

Where you begin your foray into firearms will depend mainly on your current overall situation. This would include factors such as budget and time. If there is no immediate threat to your life and you are curious about the shooting lifestyle, you may wish to begin with classroom-based training, followed by trips to the range. This is also a fantastic idea for those who wish to dabble without getting a firearm right out of the gate. Unfortunately, many women have been put into a position where time is not a luxury, and the bank account is not where they like it, but they need a shooter, and they needed it a week ago. So, we'll start with the fun stuff; choosing the right size and caliber handgun to stop any threat.



Being Well Heeled

I would always recommend a good amount of due diligence on anyone's part when it comes to purchasing a firearm; you will never hear me tell you to go out and buy a weapon all willy-nilly, sight unseen, just because you need one right now. That would be plain irresponsible and potentially deadly to you or others. That is why you should take a trip down to the local gun shop or shop/range and talk with the staff if you need to hold off on gun classes until you have bought a firearm. They will set you on the right path and answer any and all questions you may have. I can assure you that, as gun owners themselves, they will be looking out for your best interest and won't lead you astray when it comes to self-defense.

For most women, carrying concealed is their only option, and due to some fashion limitations, off-the-body carry will be the order of the day. That's not to say that there are no on-body carry options available if one is wearing a flattering outfit; quite the contrary. I'm actually jealous of you ladies because you have more hiding options than us guys, and frankly, I would love to be able to haul around more artillery with me, but I believe the male species would be mercilessly ridiculed if caught wearing a bra or garter holster. For more on/off-the-body carry, please consult my previous article on the subject, as it showcases a variety of excellent methods that will help with your research.

Off-the-body will require a smaller-framed handgun, but not a pea shooter, and certainly not in a caliber that an attacker would regard as a mere annoyance. Many snub nose revolvers and sub-compact semi-autos fall into this category, but more on these two later. The smaller handgun will be easier to conceal in a handbag, satchel, fanny

pack, or the aforementioned hiddy holsters. They will also be easier to draw from, although the hiddy holsters are a bit difficult to draw from in certain positions. The recoil will be a factor as well, so be sure to try as many calibers as possible to see what you can handle. You may end up falling in love with a traditionally higher recoil round, and those are always the best to put a thug down permanently.

The weapon should, as they say, fill your hand. This is not only for the sake of comfort and proper gun control but also to prevent your assailant from grabbing it from your hands. It will also require less hand strength to operate but more practice and training to gain consistent, accurate target acquisition when drawing and after every shot. The main point is to find a handgun that is comfortable and fun to shoot, so that you will be wanting to go to the range more often, which will improve your skills and confidence each and every time.



The Old Reliable

My loyal lady readers are thoroughly equipped to testify that they have been able to detect a consistent pattern out of all my coherent ramblings; I kind of have a thing for revolvers. This is the same type of love I reserve for certain family members and coffee, oh definitely coffee. I recognize that my genetically-inherited Teutonic logic and I are no longer on speaking terms because of this. However, what the revolver lacks in cartridge capacity, it makes up for in ease of use and comfort, and it can still send a very impactful message as well. It is also the simpler of the two handgun options to clean and maintain.

A good mid-range round to start with for revolvers would be the .38 special. The .38 special+P round runs a bit hotter and may have a recoil that doesn't agree with you. However, this is an in-between round for the .38 and the .357 if you want a good stopping round without getting into the higher caliber, recoil range. This revolver can handle a little

extra in the recoil department, and this round will never let you down. The nice thing about many ammo manufacturers is that they load some of their products to cater to certain sets of shooters. Small-frame and short-barrel revolvers shooters are no exception. One of my favorite providers of ammunition loaded specifically for short barrels is Gold Dot; however, a quick internet search will pull up other vendors offering the same product. I just happen to like the specifications and ballistics. Though the amount of smokeless powder has been reduced to manage recoil and muzzle rise, the bullet will still penetrate to a lethal depth, mushrooming upon impact and lodging firmly in the target.

Many revolvers are already lightweight through their design and construction. Smith and Wesson is a company that not only makes a fine revolver, but has also been experimenting with a light, tough alloy known as Scandium. This material has held up to many firing tests with very rare instances of catastrophic failure. If anything does happen, it is either due to mishandling on the shooter's part or the rare defect that gets through quality control.

The revolver will function in either double or single action. Single-action firing is when one thumbs the hammer back and squeezes the trigger to expend a round. Double action does the work of the trigger in addition to its primary function; basically, your finger and trigger do all the work. This would be ideal for those concerned with accidentally discharging the weapon before they are ready and for those that need to stop a threat fast. This will also require you to readjust your aim with every shot due to the longer pull and recoil working in concert to pull you off target. Single action is preferable to double, as it takes the tension off of the trigger, making it just shy of being a hair trigger. This will greatly reduce any severe shift in aim, allowing the shooter to make only slight adjustments to their target acquisition. No matter how you choose to empty the cylinder, never forget that consistent practice and training will make you more proficient in either discipline.

Do The Slide

Semi-autos are the perfect choice for those who don't want to futz around with a revolver and its lack of cartridges but would rather have the



satisfaction of knowing that they have enough ammo to effectively put down any threat. It's a simple point-and-click self-defense tool for the modern, on-the-go woman. As much as I like revolvers, I would rather my daughter have a semi-auto in her hands than anything else for protection, so I guess that would be a ringing endorsement for these weapons.

Just like revolvers, semi-auto handguns are light, compact, and come in a variety of calibers. Subcompact models are nice for everyday carry and a night out on the town. The full-sized models of semi-auto pistols with a barrel 5 inches or less would be the best choice for everyday carry. It will also be easier to upgrade certain parts for ease of use. Parts such as the magazine release and safety switch have extension upgrades that improve the reach and dexterity of those whose thumb and fingers just won't cooperate. A laser sight can also be added to improve your aim and target acquisition in low-light conditions when iron sights are useless or if you just don't like the factory sights. Cleaning and maintenance will require breaking the weapon down, which is a breeze of a task, since many modern pistols have very few parts to deal with once they are in pieces. Internal mechanisms, as well as any malfunction not addressed in the troubleshooting portion of the gun's owner's manual, should be tinkered with by a competent gunsmith.

Ammunition is housed in an elongated box-like magazine that generally holds far more cartridges than the revolver's 5-6 capacity. Depending on the laws where you reside, you can possibly possess a high-capacity magazine; however, this will complicate concealed carry quite a bit. The recommended ammo for women to put in their mags is the .380 Auto, 9mm, .40 S&W, and the .45 ACP. I have always been at odds with the .380 and

the .40 rounds. They are sometimes kind of iffy when it comes to stopping power. That is why I prefer the 9mm and .45 ACP as hearty cartridges with mucho man-killing abilities, a round proven on the battlefields of two World Wars. I don't know about you, but that would be a major selling point for me.



The More You Know....

Now that the fun part of shooting has been covered, we move on to the classroom instruction. Many gun clubs, associations, groups, hell pretty much anyone or thing to do with guns, has a safety and shooting course or knows someone that can hook you up with a sweet deal. My Colorado lady readers should check out the Tanner Gun Show, as they have a 3-hour concealed carry class conducted on-site. That way, you can take the class and then walk a few yards to the tables to start your search for the perfect shooter. This class satisfies and exceeds Colorado's requirements for concealed carry, although CCW won't be permitted anywhere in the Centennial State, with what the gun grabbers in the state house are planning.

There are also classes that specially cater to the training of female shooters by female shooters, a sound logical policy considering that some women may not be comfortable training with men for whatever reason. They feel that a fellow woman would be more understanding of their capabilities, or that a female shooter can impart some wise shooting life hacks to improve survivability in this crazy world. Sidenote, they do have some incredible hacks, and I must say that some of these ladies have a streak of brutality running through them that I would take a position of appeasement before I have limbs involuntarily removed. These classes will cover the proper handling of firearms, safety

rules, breaking down, cleaning, reassembly, and dry and live fire exercises. These classes are designed to break down the stigma of firearms to get more people interested and trained in the safe handling of the same. When the veil of mystery has been pulled away, your confidence in gun knowledge will begin to grow. Frequent trips to the range by yourself or with others will send your confidence soaring even higher, especially when you keep showing off by putting every bullet through the same hole.

You Need Support

There is one very important thing that you will need when venturing into gun ownership, and that is support. I know this may be a difficult prospect for some, while a simple phone call gets the "gang" together in a heartbeat for others. And then sometimes, you can be surrounded by people, but not get the support you need. An example of this happened to my sister a few years back. My beloved and I were ensconced at the mountain property when my sibling showed up for a visit. Mind you, she had to traverse three mountains and two locked gates to get there, but she was welcome nonetheless. In tow was her boyfriend and a couple of his buddies, so it was a bit awkward. Eventually, we headed down the hill to the range to swap lies and shoot for bragging rights. When my sister started to shoot, it looked as though she was exploring a career in tree trimming. After the range was cleared, I walked down to her and asked if Dingleberry had bothered to teach her to shoot. I know, I answered my own question. This guy was also a firearms enthusiast, so I was a bit perplexed as to why he couldn't be bothered to teach someone he supposedly cared about to shoot. We had a quick crash course on the whole shebang, and she was hitting the paper target every time afterward, much to the relief of the squirrels and Camp Birds. The point, other than I am a fantastic brother, is that with the proper support from the right person or people, the confidence in yourself and your abilities will be brimming over daily with the constant encouragement you receive. No negative waves should be allowed to penetrate that armor of confidence you wear, so surround yourself with like-minded, supportive individuals, a task that shouldn't be hard to do with 2A supporters. So, until next time, dear reader, stay safe and let's be careful out there.

DIY GUNSMITHING: SEMI-AUTO HANDGUN EDITION

BY ERIC AUSTGEN

A while back, we had a chin wag about the proper way to clean your weapons and how to gunsmith a revolver. Well, hold onto your butts because this time around, we'll be diving into the gunsmithing of a couple popular semi-auto handguns on the market. As I mentioned, we have already had a thorough firearm cleaning tutorial, so we will not duplicate efforts here unless the firearm being described requires a little extra special attention. So, without further delay, let's get your shooter tuned and refined in order to keep you coming out on top after every gunfight.



JOHN BROWNING'S MOST FAMOUS DESIGN

There is no doubt that the Model 1911 has been a popular and enduring pistol that transcends many levels of service, from the military down to the everyday carrying civilian. To ensure that this shooter works smoothly, we will have a look at one way you can improve your trigger and how to properly break in the slide and frame.

One problem a 1911 owner may encounter is pre- and over-travel of the trigger. Pretravel is how much one needs to squeeze the trigger before meeting resistance and then, finally the break. Overtravel is how much further the trigger travels after the break. These problems can be remedied with adjustable triggers only, not ones from the factory.

To work on the trigger assembly, you must disassemble the lower part of the 1911. Remove the trigger assembly, and bend the ears out on the trigger bow with a small flathead screwdriver or pliers. These ears are designed to push against the frame to set the trigger back and eliminate extra wiggle room, so you will need to match the ears up as close as you can. This project might require multiple reassembly and disassembly sessions, as the only way to truly test whether the pretravel has been taken care of is to reassemble the firearm and dry-fire it. So be patient and take your time. Just remember to bend the ears incrementally to prevent bending them too far, which will most likely prevent the trigger from operating properly.



Getting rid of overtravel problems will greatly decrease the amount of time needed for the trigger to reset. The gun will not need to be taken apart for this correction; rather, an appropriately-sized Allen wrench only needs to be inserted into the trigger hole to reach the overtravel screw. Simply turn the screw inwards, cock the hammer, and dry-fire to test. While your finger is still on the trigger, rack the slide, and then estimate the distance the trigger will need to move before the click. This will require going a turn at a time to get the satisfactory correction you seek. If you want to bypass all that time, you can turn the screw all the way in until the trigger is unable to move backward, then turn the screw back the appropriate number of turns. Once the screw is where you like it, throw some Loc-tite on the threads to prevent them from moving out of position after repeated firings.



Whether you have purchased a brand, spanking-new 1911 or a used one, it is always a good idea to upgrade it to your personal specifications for overall shooting enjoyment. If upgrades are not possible for whatever reason, there is a simple way to keep your 1911's slide and frame in tip-top shape. Just break them in with a little metal polish and some elbow grease. A medium to fine grit polish will be needed, as it has less potential to remove too much metal.

As you will be working with a metal polishing compound that may gunk up the other parts, and because it's easier to do it this way, disassemble your 1911 completely, this after you have cleared the weapon and made it safe, of course. Apply a small amount along the rails on the frame and the slide. Then, place the slide back on the frame and move it gently back and forth. The polish compound will need to be replaced periodically, and depending on what grit the polish is, you may need to do this several times. The ultimate goal is to have the slide, well, slide off the frame when it is pulled to the

rear and the muzzle is pointed toward the ground. When that has been achieved, be sure to do a thorough cleaning of the frame and slide, as you don't want any of the polish compound hiding out anywhere that it could prematurely wear down parts that shouldn't be worn down. You can use soap and water or gun cleaner to get rid of any remaining residue. Dry your piece off, oil it up, and reassemble; it's just that easy!



AUSTRIA'S GIFT TO THE WORLD

The Glock is another semi-auto handgun that is a very popular shooter, no matter where it is employed. That is why there are a ton of upgrades available to cater to every shooter. It is also known to be a very reliable piece of artillery and has been likened to the AK-47 due to its ability to take a beating and keep firing, even after long delays in cleaning. If you fall into the extended maintenance category, we'll cover how to clean and lube the Glock.

A firearm should be reasonably cleaned after every trip to the range or when used for its intended purpose. This may not be possible all the time, so it should be cleaned as soon as possible or when you think of it. You will definitely want to clean it when you notice that accuracy is being impacted, if you accidentally dropped it in mud, sand, or salt water, or if it is exposed to the elements for long periods of time.

The nice thing about field-stripping the Glock down for cleaning is that there will only be 4 major parts to deal with. In order to break down the Glock, first make sure it is clear and safe, then point the muzzle in a safe direction to dry-fire. Slightly pull back on the slide while pulling down on the tabs on either side of the frame; these are located

above and forward of the trigger. When the tabs are pulled down, the slide should move forward and drop off the frame. Once the slide is removed, the recoil spring, guide rod, and barrel can be removed for inspection and cleaning.

The barrel will need to have a thorough roto rooter scrubbing, especially for lackadaisical cleaners, as the barrel is often the dirtiest part of the entire firearm. Before you start in with any solvents or cleaners, begin by pushing a dry brush, chamber to muzzle, to dislodge any loose debris. Run the brush through as many times as you need to or until you stop seeing things fall out of the barrel. This is where one needs to make a decision. Do I want to clean the barrel the old-fashioned way by saturating cleaning patches one after another with cleaner and get a workout in the process? Or do I say to hell with it, and just get a Bore Snake? Go with the Bore Snake. As much as I like tradition, the snake just makes life easier when cleaning any barrel. Granted, you may need to run it through the barrel a time or two depending on the level of filth your barrel is clothed in, but it saves time and you can get back to business as usual faster. The simple-to-follow directions come with the zero mess Bore Snake. A patch with cleaner should be run over the exterior of the barrel and along the feed ramps of the chamber, and then a microfiber cloth should be used to remove the excess cleaner. At this point, run either several dry patches or a dry Bore Snake through the barrel until you see nothing clinging to the patches or snake. Visually inspect the interior of the barrel to ensure that it is uniformly bright and shiny. You may notice a couple of dark spots; this is likely to happen when cleaning has been put on the back burner, so let this be a lesson on the importance of that.



slide, recoil spring, and guide rod. The slide will need special attention since it accumulates a good amount of fouling, especially in the rear area. The slide can be cleaned by wrapping a clean, dry patch around a bore brush and going to town on it by scrubbing and wiping the inside of it. A Q-tip may need to be deployed to clean the inside of the guide rails. While this may seem like a minor thing to do, it will give you peace of mind knowing that your weapon won't malfunction due to negligent maintenance. When the interior has been cleaned, take the slide and point the muzzle end towards the ground. This is where you will clean the breech face, making sure the slide does not deviate from being straight up and down, as you will not want any fouling or other debris being knocked back into the slide or the breech. As for the recoil spring and guide rod, all you need to do is give them a good brushing and then wipe down with a rag.

The frame of your Glock will require nothing more than a good, thorough scrubbing with solvent or cleaner and a good stiff bristle toothbrush to really get in there. Scrub the top of the frame, the slide rails on the front, and the trigger bar located in the rear. Excess cleaner should be removed with a rag or microfiber cloth.

Once the parts have been cleaned of fouling and grime, the firearm should be properly lubricated. Many shooters I know love to have their firearms greased to the max to minimize metal-on-metal friction, whereas others have expressed their love for a light oil policy. In the case of the Glock, less is better, and that is because excessive lubrication will attract and hold more dirt and grime that will foul your weapon terribly, almost to the point of failure.

The barrel should have an oiled patch or Bore Snake run through it four to five times; there may be some fouling that wasn't picked up the first time around that shakes loose. Don't fret over this, as it is sometimes normal for this to happen. This should be followed by a dry patch to catch any extra oil or lube. The exterior of the barrel should have a light coating of oil applied to it; then, remove any excess with your handy rag. You will then need to lube the spaces between the lugs on the bottom of the barrel and on the top where the barrel and slide interface.



Moving on to the barrel's closest work associate, the slide will need oiling on the top rear where it interfaces with the barrel. The front will also need to be lubed where the barrel pokes through. The wear marks will be an excellent guide for where to place your preferred lubrication. The rails on the slide's interior each get one drop of oil, which should be spread evenly around with your finger or patch. Then wipe everything down.

The frame only requires a couple of lubrication points; the slide rails and the raised metal part in the rear that interfaces with the trigger bar. That is it, except for wiping down the frame like every other part. Sensing a pattern? Now you are ready to put everything back together and check your work. This will need to be done where you can safely point the muzzle and dry-fire the weapon a few times. Rack the slide back and dry-fire a couple of times to assess whether your Glock is functioning properly. Check to make sure that the trigger is resetting to your expectations, that all moving parts are moving smoothly to ensure there is no remaining grit, and all parts are in their assigned spots. Once you have bestowed your blessing on this cleaning, you can do whatever you want with it, as long as it's legal and responsible.

If you are a Glock owner and have recently been gripped by the overwhelming need to completely tear it down to do a real deep clean detail job, well, we don't have the space. However, we can hit that topic for another time. I will tell you that the Glock disassembly tool will be of great help and make things easier for the whole task. The reason why this is a subject deserving of its own space is that extra special attention will need to be paid to the removal and replacement of parts, especially the pins, as they are inserted in a certain order. However, hopefully, some of you Glocks owners

that are a little lax in your maintenance program due to the handgun's reputation will seriously consider doing this more often, as it will help to preserve the weapon, deliver consistent reliability and accuracy, and will give you long years of faithful service; this is if you were to reciprocate with faithful sporadic cleanings whether the handgun needs it or not. It's a relaxing pursuit and a good way to gauge if your storage system is working effectively to protect it against corrosion and oxidation, and you will always know it will perform every time you need it.

Possessing the knowledge to work on your guns will make a world of difference when you are faced with any firearm difficulties, especially when you are in a place far removed from civilization or a competent gunsmith. Saving money is also a big plus; however, I believe that the time spent learning how the weapon is built and setting up a thorough maintenance schedule will help one to become more intimate with their firearm. And with the installation of quality parts, one can be assured that their firearms will perform beautifully every time they are called into action.

In future issues, we will deal with more gunsmithing topics. You bolt action fanatics will be sated, I promise. Military firearm types? Yes, we will have an article all for you. The AR-15 will also show up at some point. There will also be a further dive into upgrade installations and the like for the Glock. We will even get to stock and grip checkering, an art form that is functional and when done correctly, is a nice piece of eye candy. There will be a discussion on modern bluing methods and an age-old technique of rust bluing that produces a beautiful plum-brown finish that is just as eye-catching as its flashier steel blue cousin. So, until then and next time, dear reader, stay safe and let's be careful out there.



15

Of The Best Bathroom Paper Product Replacements

(Yes, Including Toilet Paper)

It may not be a fun topic, but everyone in the world needs a way to take care of themselves after they've gone number 2. This isn't something that will ever go away either, so once your toilet paper runs out, you will always be looking for a replacement.

The good news is that you can find a suitable replacement relatively quickly, as long you know where to look. In other words, you can put your penguin waddle to rest and get right to wiping!

Although there are 15 toilet paper replacements below, we'd like to point out that nothing will work quite like toilet paper does. Therefore, be sure to stock up on these essential white squares. They're pretty light and easy to carry when you bug out, especially if you've removed the center tube from your rolls.

After you get as much as you can out of your toilet paper, though, it'll be time to move on to something different. Read on to learn all about toilet paper substitutions!

15 Paper Product Replacements

Obviously, toilet paper will come first on this list, but as soon as you run out, go out and forage for one of these replacements. And we literally mean forage, as every item on this list will either come from your garden or from general foraging.

10 Why are we going the all-natural route? Well, first off, natural replacements will almost always be

available. Secondly, it helps to reduce the amount of unnatural waste that you'll have to deal with. Finally, it just makes good sense to look for natural replacements because regular paper factories won't keep producing toilet paper after the SHTF.

Substitutes You Can Plant In Your Garden

There's really no easier place to source replacement toilet paper than from your own backyard. And as a bonus, most people probably won't consider your plants when trying to find a way to replace their own toilet paper. It also helps tremendously that you'll know everything growing in your garden, which will remove the identification piece of the puzzle.

Cauliflower



Think about what cauliflower looks like while growing in your garden. Does anything specific come to mind? Well, if you're like most people, you're probably not going to use the big leaves that grow around the cauliflower to protect the food.

So, head on out to your garden's cauliflower patch and remove those big leaves. They'll provide you with a great toilet paper substitute! Once you're done using the leaves, simply bury them. No fuss, no muss. All in all, this is a rather elegant way to solve your toilet paper issue.

Cabbage

You only need to think about cabbage to realize why it can offer you one of the best toilet paper replacements in the world. Think of the huge leaves that surround the outside of each cabbage. Do you really have anything better to do with them than turn them into toilet paper?

Doing this will actually give the entire cabbage a purpose, as they're currently just waste material. Rather than trimming away the outer leaves to reveal the inner head, pluck those leaves and use them as toilet paper instead. That way, your cabbage will give you a source of food and a good way to wipe after you go number 2.

Grape Leaves



Can you wait a couple of years for toilet paper? If you plant a trellis, it'll begin to offer food and lots of toilet paper opportunities in approximately two years. There's no way for us to know when society will finally go completely into the dumpster, so we don't really know if you've got two years to wait. But as long as you've secured some extra rolls of TP, we highly suggest that you plant a trellis immediately.

Once the time comes to begin harvesting the trellis, you'll notice that you've got two important things on your hands: grapes and their leaves. Eat the grapes or attempt to make your own wine. The leaves, meanwhile, are about as big as pieces of

toilet paper, so you might as well use them this way. You'll find that they're pretty sturdy too, which should help a lot.

Lamb's Ears

Before we get into how to use Lamb's Ears for toilet paper, let's first acknowledge that this isn't usually planted in someone's garden. Instead, it usually grows as a wild plant, but it has plenty of ornamental value. There are, however, several reasons to grow it, including the fact that it's edible, can serve as medicine, and works for your bathroom needs.

The best part of Lamb's Ears is its sheer abundance of leaves. Not only are there tons of them, but they're extra soft, too. And did we mention that the leaves have antibiotic properties? It's true! Therefore, planting some Lamb's Ears in your garden definitely sounds like the way to go.

Let's Go Foraging!

We've hit the end of our garden list, so now it's time to discover what types of replacement toilet paper can be found in the woods. Make sure you pay close attention to your identification guide, as you don't want to make any costly mistakes.

One way to ensure you don't end up in a world of pain is by choosing a spot on your forearm to test-rub the leaves. Wait 15 minutes, and if there isn't any reaction, you're most likely good to go!

Blue Spur Flower

Looking in a hot climate will be your best bet if you're on the hunt for some Blue Spur Flower. These flowers have acted as toilet paper for generations, which means they actually pre-date the invention. Even better, you'll discover that the leaves of the Blue Spur Flower are large and oh so soft.

After you've used this flower for the first time, you'll honestly wonder why we ever switched to paper products. Especially given the Blue Spur Flower's tendency to spread out and take over an entire area. Of course, if you find a big field of this flower, you're not going to be upset about how it grows.

Borage



If you'd like to use Borage as a toilet paper substitute, you're going to need to find some that are still immature. When the leaves are in this small state, they provide a sturdy and soft way to wipe yourself (but pay attention because you'll need to use a lot of them).

You can find Borage across the United Kingdom and throughout Europe. They can also be located in the United States, but they're much rarer here. This means that if you find an immature field of Borage, you should absolutely take advantage of it.

Corn Lily

Corn Lily can be located by any survivalist who happens to be in New England or the Great Lakes region. You can identify it by its blue berries, petite yellow flowers, and low-growing orientation. The leaves of the Corn Lily are edible, but they're also great for cleaning up big messes. Each leaf is broad and long, which makes it perfectly suited to clean up detail.

One thing you'll love is how stout these leaves are. They're not going to let you down when you really need them. Although the leaves are smooth, they're not going to feel quite as comfortable as some of the other plants on this list. Of course, when you've just got to clean, comfort won't be at the top of your list.

Mullein

This flower ranks as the number two choice for anyone who has gone number 2. Basically, if you can't find any Lamb's Ears, look for some Mullein. This plant has large, soft leaves that help set it apart. You can also identify Mullein by looking for brilliant yellow flowers and the spike-like shape of the plant.

Learning where to find Mullein can take a bit of practice. Where you want to look are in the transition spaces between trees and fields. Additionally, don't forget to check in areas that have rougher soil. With its flowers and height, Mullein should stick out and call to you like a beacon.

Large Leaf Aster

Large Leaf Aster has been used by indigenous people for a very, very long time. In Quebec, the Algonquin people cook and eat the greens. The Ojibwa rely on it to treat headaches, attract deer (they smoke it), make medicine (from the young leaves), and make soup. Meanwhile, the Iroquois treat venereal diseases by using a compound decoction of the roots to loosen the bowels. They also use the root in blood medicine.

Aside from these uses, the Large Leaf Aster provides the ideal texture, size, and durability to hold up to the pressures of cleaning you up after you've gone number 2. All in all, this is a very useful plant to locate.

Old Man's Beard/Spanish Moss



There is probably plenty of Spanish Moss growing near you if you happen to be in the South. This may not be the easiest form of toilet paper you've ever used, but as long as you can gather enough of it, you shouldn't have any major issues. Another thing to note is that Spanish Moss is typically soft, which will be nice!

Common Mallow

Finding a Common Mallow isn't difficult. This plant is as at home in the woods as it is in your garden, and there are several different varieties. One thing that could cause a bit of difficulty,

however, is that the Common Mallow has irregularly shaped leaves. So while yes, this plant can help you clean up, it's going to take a bit of creativity to get the job done.

Plantain

The banana's cousin provides us with food, medicine, and a way to clean up after ourselves! Is there anything this plant can't do? Okay, okay, that's a bit of hyperbole, but the plantain can do an awful lot for humanity.

Leave them alone and let them grow, and you'll have some large leaves to use as toilet paper. The best part, though, is that the leaves can be used as a poultice. So, if you've got a rash where the sun doesn't shine, the leaves can also help take care of it.

Tamarisk Moss

This particular moss is softer than the last one on this list. In fact, it's so thick, soft, and capable of doing clean-up duty, we highly recommend using it. Tamarisk Moss is one of the many, many different species of moss. Its family name is Thuidiaceae.

Pink Wild Pear

Also known as a Tropical Hydrangea, the Pink Wild Pear can grow an astounding 15 feet into the air. This will definitely help you with the identification part. Be aware that you're not going to find these growing in the US. Instead, these plants have tough and broad leaves, along with a little bit of softness, and can be found in Africa and Madagascar.

Yellow Dock

Now, let's return to a plant that can be found in the US, yes? This plant is known by many names, including the Curled Dock and Curly Dock. Yellow Dock also has many benefits, such as being medicinal and edible. For instance, the tender, young leaves are an excellent salad green if you want to eat a salad. You'll need to allow them to mature and toughen up some, though, before you can wipe with them.

Thimbleberry



Rubus parviflorus, better known as Thimbleberry or Redcaps, can be found throughout most of the United States. It has a few different uses, including being eaten dried, raw, or in a jam. Also, despite there being no evidence that it works, the Thimbleberry has been used medicinally by Native Americans.

Identifying this plant isn't hard. Simply look for plants with fruit that resembles raspberries on them. Then, leave them to mature so that you can enjoy using their surprisingly soft and large leaves to take care of your rear end.

WARNING

Before you go off into the woods to find yourself some replacement toilet paper, let's take a moment to discuss the importance of identification techniques. If you have any hesitation at all, it's better not to use a plant than to use it and end up an itchy mess. This is why it's always best to take an identification guide with you.

Final Thoughts

We know that there is at least one person out there who is thinking, "forget this. I'll just buy a ton of toilet paper." And that will last as long as it lasts, but then you'll have to get serious about finding a replacement source.

We know that this topic isn't as fun as some of our others, but we truly believe it's just as important. After all, what good are you going to do out there if you can't even wipe after yourself? That's why it's so imperative that you learn about this stuff right now. For example, if you make sure you can identify a Large Leaf Aster or Borage before you need them, then it'll be a lot easier to find them again once your toilet paper supply runs out.



7 CRITICAL STEPS WHEN YOU FIND YOURSELF IN AN EMERGENCY

Whether you're in the woods, sheltering at home, or on a boat, an emergency situation can strike at any moment. When this happens, you're going to have to do your best to remain calm. That's because if you can remember the seven critical steps to take when you find yourself in an emergency, you should be able to deal with the current scenario without giving up.

In fact, these seven steps can – and will – make the difference between calming down and assessing the situation versus freaking out and doing something really stupid. Therefore, whenever an emergency arises, take a deep breath, then begin to work your way down the list.

SEVEN STEPS YOU MUST TAKE DURING AN EMERGENCY

All of the following steps are critical, so be sure to do them all!

>>1. Know and Accept Your Situation

No matter what situation you've gotten into, the most important way to begin working your way back out is to know and accept that what's happened to you is real. Take a few minutes to kick

the dirt, yell, etc. This is the "Oh Shit!" moment of realization, and it's perfectly natural.

Now that you've gotten that out of your system (and hopefully, it didn't take you too long), it's time to start thinking like a survivor. Are there other people with you? Check them to see if they survived, too. Also, remember that you may be called on to fill a leadership role. It's time to shake out the moment of fear and begin helping everyone else.

>>2. Take Inventory

Before you can do this step, you'll need to ensure that you've thoroughly checked yourself and any others for injuries, cuts, etc. Remember: some injuries can be hidden from view. And if someone happens to be wearing tight-fitting outer clothing, you may not even notice how badly they're bleeding at first.

After you've taken care of every human you can help, it's time to move on to taking inventory. This includes the items you have and the things around you that can help. For instance, do a visual inspection and determine if you can collect water and build a shelter nearby. Be sure to keep an eye

out for unstable overhangs, tides, etc. The last thing you want to do is build a shelter that's going to become unusable tomorrow.

Next, take out all of your belongings to assess what can help you. Never dismiss anything you find. After all, if you've got your survivor's thinking cap on, even a scrap side from a broken pail can be wetted down and used to signal with sunlight. Alternatively, it could be used for digging.

The important thing is to think like a survivor. Do you have any woven rope? Unravel it, and you'll have the materials necessary to make a fishing line!

>>3. Build a Shelter



Building any type of shelter will be better than having no shelter at all. Aside from dealing with life-threatening injuries, finding a suitable place to build (or take) shelter is an absolutely critical thing to learn. Fortunately, there are a variety of different simple shelters that almost anyone can make.

- Build a simple lean-to using a ridge pole, a tree, and side supports. Take a plastic sheet, a tarp, or even pieces of bark to cover the side supports.
- Tie both ends of the rope to two trees. This makeshift ridge support will make a great emergency shelter as soon as you put a tarp or a couple of large garbage bags over the middle.
- Use a simple log bed and insulate it with pine needles and leaves. Cover the bed with a tarp to create a basic lean-to to ride out an emergency.
- Have you found a safe, natural opening? Fantastic! Once you put a face on this spot, you'll be protected somewhat from the elements. Lay branches in front of the opening or, if you've got time and energy, build a brush closure.

Create the very best shelter you can, but don't worry about getting it perfect. After all, you can continue to add new materials to it for as long as it remains necessary. Remember: it's better to have a marginal level of protection that can be improved upon later than to have no shelter at all. Getting it built is the most important thing you can do for now.

>>4. Signal for Help



Okay, the time has officially come to signal for some help. Some people believe that signaling early is a waste of time because no one will be looking for you yet. But let's consider, for example, that you happen to know what time of day a certain plane flies overhead. Even if you've only been lost for an hour, you can – and certainly should – take the opportunity to signal that plane.

Sadly, catching the attention of a plane is going to be quite difficult. Most people believe that if they can see the plane, then someone on the plane can see them, but this is just not true. The reality is that if you want to be spotted from the air like that, you're going to have to make a humongous signal. The smallest signal we recommend is one that's three feet wide and 15 feet long.

The best way to signal is to use the rule of three. This means that if you're making a fire, make three of them. Alternatively, if you're going to fire your gun, be sure to fire it three times in a row. Either of these successfully uses the international distress signal. Another trick is to use the brightest piece of fabric you have.

>>5. Find Water

Water is one of the essential building blocks of a healthy body. If you go longer than three days

without it, you'll most likely die of dehydration. This falls in line with life's critical threes: it takes three minutes to die without air, three days to perish without water, and three weeks to die without food. In other words, if you don't find water or help within three days, it's all going to be over.



Water can be sourced from a wide variety of different options. Perhaps you've found some free-standing water. Or maybe you've found a thin stream or a roaring river. You might even need to collect rainwater or find yourself a natural depression with some water inside. If all else fails, try to harvest some of the morning dew. No matter what it takes, find yourself some water.

DON'T attempt to drink any of the water until you've purified it. This might be the hardest direction of all, especially if you've been looking for a water source for a couple of days. But trust us, boiling the water and waiting for it to cool back down will be worth it. You don't want to end up with horrible diarrhea, after all.

Be aware that most illnesses you can pick up from water won't make themselves known immediately. Instead, they typically take anywhere from several days to several weeks to become apparent. Therefore, if you find yourself in a true life or death situation, do what you've got to do to survive. Hopefully, you'll be rescued by the time the sickness sets in.

>>6. Find Food

Your body has a critical need for water and food. The difference, however, is that you can last a full three weeks without any food before you perish. However, we need to take a closer look at the negative effects of going without any sustenance.

First off, after the first 12 hours or so, your body is going to feel fatigued, and you'll also be dealing with confusion and feeling irritable. At this stage, your body will begin to cannibalize itself. The weirdest part is that you may actually gain weight at first instead of losing any. Over time, if you starve your body for too long, you'll begin to hallucinate and become extremely lethargic.

It's so important to know what will happen to you because you can't wait until you're hallucinating to look for food. If you do, the odds are that you'll never find enough to keep you going. The trick is to look for food early on, during the first day, before you even really need it.

Once you do find something, you'll have to ask yourself a few questions. First, is it edible? Second, will it taste okay? As long as you're sure that it is edible, you can eat it. But if it tastes so gross that you can't choke it down, what good will it do you? Well, ladies and gentlemen, this is why you should always carry a small bottle of Tabasco sauce with you! Simply douse what you're planning to eat in Tabasco sauce, and you'll be ready to go!

>>7. Play



This probably wasn't what you expected to find in position number seven, but it's a very important thing to do. Keeping a positive mental attitude is, after all, one of the most critical things you can do. If there are several people in your group, perhaps you could arrange a game of stickball or make one of your chores into a game. For example, you can find out who can collect the most firewood or edible plants during a certain time frame.

Playing will look different from person to person, but it's so important to provide some time for this impulse. Do you know that each time you play, it

helps you to learn and grow? Yes, this is true for children, but it's also the case for everyone! In fact, there are five main characteristics of play.

- Joyful - The joy of discovery.
- Meaningful - Links in a meaningful way to new experiences.
- Actively engaging - Helps with executive control.
- Iterative - Builds your memory and reward networks.
- Socially interactive - Helps build healthy relationships.

As you can see, letting yourself indulge in some healthy play (such as a competition to find the most food) can help you in a variety of ways.

AN ACRONYM TO REMEMBER THE 7 STEPS BY

Did you know that the steps above can be formed into the acronym KISSWEP? Here's a brief recap.

Know and accept the situation.

Inventory everything and everyone.

Shelter can help protect you from the cold.

Signal preparation means finding something that can get attention from a distance.

Water is absolutely critical.

Eat food, but remember you can go several weeks without any.

Play to retain your positive mental attitude.

BONUS: 25 SURVIVAL ITEMS PEOPLE FORGET TO PURCHASE

If you have all of these on you when you get stuck in an emergency situation, the outcome will almost certainly be different. Purchase the following 25 survival items and make sure you never, ever forget them at home when you're going off into the unknown.

Dust Masks - Whether the air is filled with fumes, smoke, or dust, you're going to need dust masks.

Duct Tape - Use duct tape to make a shelter, a splint, or for a quick repair.

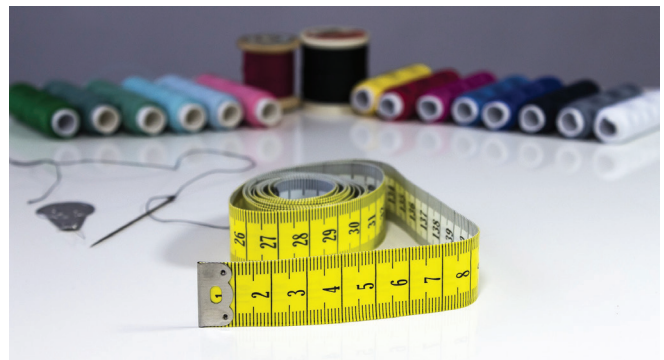
Portable Toilet - This will be much easier to use than a traditional toilet that may not flush anymore.

Paper Towels/Cups/Plates - You've found food, but how will you eat it? Investing in some cheap paper products can save you a ton of issues with washing.

Matches/Candles/Solar Lights - If you're like most survivalists, you're probably already loaded up with batteries. But how long are those batteries going to last? You'd better stock up on candles and matches, along with solar lights, too.

Hand Sanitizer - Even if you don't have access to running water, you can keep your hands clean by liberally applying some hand sanitizer. After you run out, vinegar is a decent replacement.

Sewing Kit - Is there a big rip in your jeans, but no open stores? If you pack a sewing kit, you can repair them yourself!



Mylar Blankets - You can preserve body heat with a mylar blanket. You will also find them to be waterproof and durable.

Tarps - Using a tarp can keep all your supplies dry. It can also double as a shelter.

Baby Wipes - Anyone can use baby wipes, and they'll help you stay clean. If they seem to be dry, simply add some water.

WD40 - Stocking up on a few cans of WD40 just makes good sense. After all, you're always going to encounter squeaky doors.

Sunscreen/Animal Repellent/Bug Spray - If there has been a major emergency, guess what? It's going to stir up more bugs. You may also have issues **17**

with big animals rooting around in places they're not welcome. Sunscreen is also going to be an invaluable resource.

Baking Soda - This is useful as a replacement deodorizer and cleaner.

Floss - There aren't going to be any more dentists, so you'd better take the very best care of your teeth. As an added bonus, you can use floss as a fishing line.

Formula/Diapers - If you've got a baby, you're going to need to stock up on some additional items. Grab as much formula and as many diapers as you can reasonably bug out with.

Axe - Without an axe, you can kiss your dreams of chopping down firewood goodbye.

Paracord - It might look like it's only a thin piece of cord, but a paracord is extremely tough stuff. It can help you climb, work as a booby trap, build a snare, work as a tourniquet, build a fishing line, etc.



Pantyhose - Yes, even if you're a man, you should buy some pantyhose for your bug out bag. They're useful for dehydrating food, fishing, filtering water, etc.

Zip Ties - Want a pair of makeshift handcuffs? Zip ties are the answer! You can also make a snare, repair clothing, or build a shelter with the help of zip ties.

Condiments - This will make your food taste much, much better.

Mesh Strainer - This enables you to strain herbs, oils, and fats away from your food.

Toys and Board Games - Now that your iPad no longer works, you'll need to go back to the basics to keep your kids busy.

Cast Iron Cookware - Make your cookware last forever with cast iron!

Playing Cards - Having a pack of cards will help adults pass the time.

Survival Books - Keep a few books with you that help with plant identification, etc.

FINAL THOUGHTS

Always be ready to survive by remembering the acronym KISSWEP. These are the very first steps you should take to make sure you're able to stay alive. After which, having even a few of the 25 items that most people forget will give you an advantage over others.

No matter what happens, remember that you have the skills to survive. Now put them to good use!



How To Get Free Land In The USA

Have you ever wished that you were alive back when the Homesteading Act of 1862 went into effect? Well, guess what? There are several places in the US where you can grab a free plot of land, as long as you qualify. So, which free land are you going to turn into either your home or a survivalist cabin?

Free Land For All Who Qualify

If free land is what you desire, then be sure to visit the following cities.

Lincoln, Kansas

How about living in a tiny, picturesque town that only has around 3,500 residents? Even better, it's situated right next to I-70. The property in question is in a subdivision, but the price is absolutely right!

New Richland, Minnesota

This town is even smaller than Lincoln, with a mere 1,200 residents. However, there are amenities for you to enjoy, such as a bike trail and golf course.

New Richland will give you an 86' x 133' lot, but it's not quite as simple as Lincoln. To qualify for this land, you must A) guarantee to build a house on it within a year and B) pay the necessary taxes to put in gutters and curbs, along with sewer and water. This comes to approximately \$14,000, but don't worry as it'll be spread out over 15 years.

Mankato, Kansas

There are 26 lots available in Mankato, which should push the current population of 900 people closer to 1,000. However, there are certain conditions you must agree to. First, your home **MUST** be a **MINIMUM** of 1,200 square feet, and this doesn't include a basement or garage. Second, you must have a contract with a builder within 6 months, and they must finish their work within 2 years.

Curtis, Nebraska

If you're looking for a place to build your retirement home, look no further than Curtis! The good news is that there will be no additional fees because the utilities are already in the area. Fill out an application at CurtisNebraska.com to get more details.

Manilla, Iowa

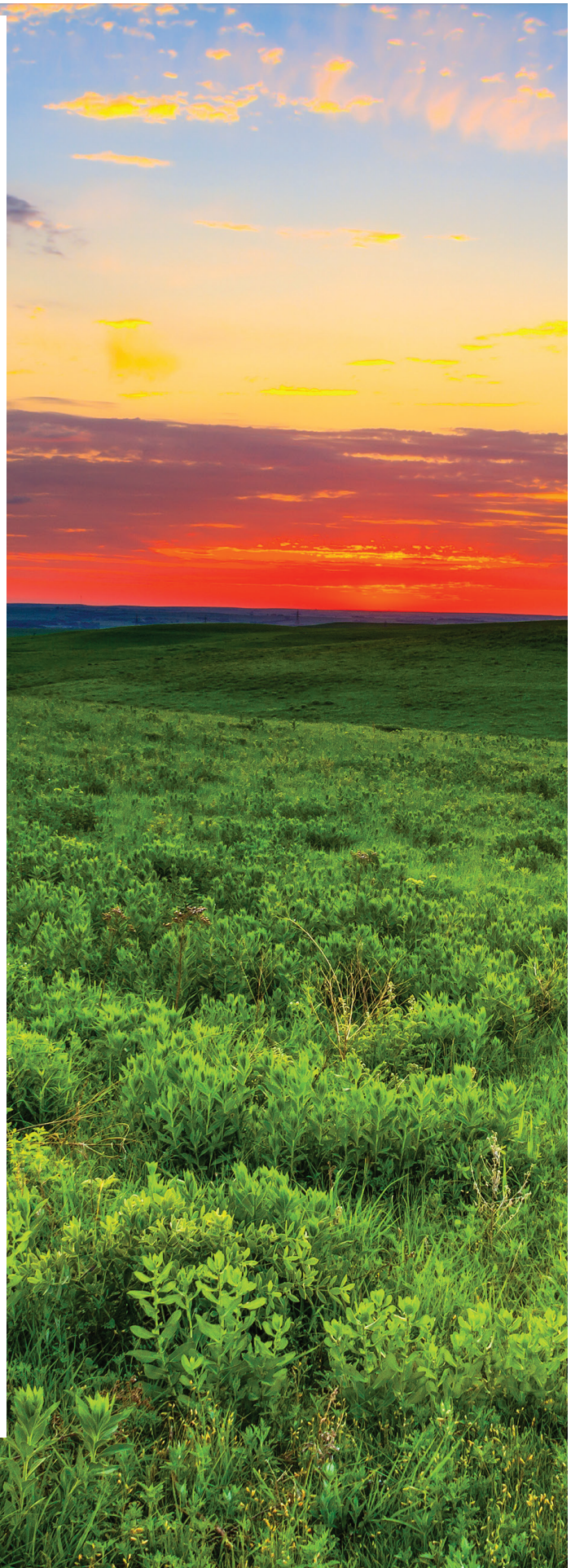
There are currently 16 lots available. Although Manilla doesn't provide a lot of information online, we know that you'll receive a 5-year tax abatement with your new property.

Loup City, Nebraska

There are six lots up for grabs in Loup City, but that's not all – each lot will also have a home built on it! Three of the homes will go to the Workforce, which means you'll have to meet certain income restrictions. The other three properties are Market Rate Homes, and they'll require a \$1,000 deposit.

Final Thoughts

The six cities listed above all have free lots to hand out. However, if you strike out in each of these places, you can also check with Marquette, Kansas; Osborne, Kansas; Plainville, Kansas; Elwood, Nebraska; and Marne, Iowa. Be sure to visit each town's official government page for more details and to find an application form.



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