

Ultimate Get Home / Bug Out Bag Checklist

Core Principles

- - Lightweight and compact—this isn't a full Bug Out Bag.
- - Durable and low-profile—gray man is the goal.
- - Tailored to your location, commute, and climate.

Bag Itself

- - Vertx Gamut 2.0 Backpack (covert look, CCW compartment) or Mystery Ranch 2-Day Assault Pack.
- - Include waterproof dry bags or Ziploc bags to organize and protect contents.

Navigation

- - Compass (non-digital, e.g., Suunto MC-2).
- - Custom-printed topo maps or maps from Gaia GPS/MyTopo.
- - Sharpie, Rite in the Rain All-Weather Pen + Notebook.
- - Emergency whistle, signal mirror.

Tools & Equipment

- - Fixed blade knife (e.g., ESEE 4).
- - Multitool (e.g., Leatherman Wave+).
- - Flashlight (e.g., Streamlight ProTac 2L-X).
- - Headlamp (e.g., Black Diamond Spot 400-R).
- - Ferro rod, Bic lighters, UCO stormproof matches.
- - Paracord (25–50 ft), Titan SurvivorCord preferred.
- - Duct tape (Gorilla Tape wrapped on card).
- - Pry tool (Stanley FatMax FuBar or compact crowbar).
- - Lock pick set (if legal), small bolt cutter, folding saw.
- - Cash in small denominations (\$100–\$200).

Water

- - Sawyer Mini filter with squeeze pouch.
- - Aquatabs or Katadyn purification tablets.
- - Nalgene wide-mouth bottle, Vapur Eclipse Collapsible 1L.
- - Hydration bladder (e.g., CamelBak).

Food

- - CLIF Bars, RXBars, Epic Bars, Datrex emergency rations.
- - Jerky, trail mix, peanut butter packets.
- - Mountain House Pro-Pak (optional, just-add-water meals).
- - Electrolyte tablets or energy drink mix.

Clothing

- - Comfortable walking shoes or boots.
- - Darn Tough Merino Wool socks (x2).
- - Mechanix M-Pact gloves.
- - Rain poncho (Helikon-Tex or Snugpak).
- - Outdoor Research Sun Runner Cap or boonie hat.
- - Bandana or shemagh, Patagonia Capilene base layer.
- - Lightweight long-sleeve shirt, extra underwear.

Shelter & Warmth

- - SOL Escape Bivvy or emergency space blanket.
- - Aqua Quest Defender tarp (5x7 ft).
- - Hand warmers (HotHands Singles).
- - Contractor-grade trash bags (backup shelter).
- - Paracord for tarp setup.

Medical & Hygiene

- - IFAK: CAT Gen 7 Tourniquet, HyFin Chest Seals, compressed gauze, trauma shears.
- - Nitrile gloves, superglue, OTC meds (Ibuprofen, Benadryl, Imodium).
- - Oral rehydration salts.
- - Combat wipes, travel toothbrush, Dr. Bronner's soap.
- - Lip balm, sunscreen, feminine hygiene products.

Defense

- - Primary handgun (e.g., Glock 19) + 2–3 extra mags.
- - IWB holster (e.g., Tier 1 Concealed Axis Elite).
- - Optional: folding PCC (e.g., Kel-Tec P50 or AR15 Pistol).
- - Non-lethal: Sabre Red Pepper Gel, ASP Palm Defender.
- - Tactical pen, blunt tool (e.g., Smith & Wesson Tactical Pen).

Comms & Signal

- - Kaito KA321 or C.Crane Pocket AM/FM/SW radio.
- - Fox 40 Micro Whistle, SOL Rescue Flash mirror.
- - Cyalume SnapLights (chem lights).

Documents & Other

- - Photocopies of ID + emergency contact info.
- - USB flash drive (IronKey or Corsair Survivor Stealth) with documents.
- - Notebook + pencil.
- - Cash in multiple hidden spots.
- - Ballistic-rated sunglasses (Wiley X or Oakley SI).

Climate & Region-Specific Additions

- - Hydration and sun protection critical for Central TX.
- - High-SPF sunscreen stick.
- - Compression bandage, optional snakebite kit.
- - Gaiters or durable pants for brush.

Survival Training Leverage

- - Use contractor bags instead of full bivvy for lighter weight.
- - Use natural shelter and terrain knowledge.
- - Add wire snare kit or fishing line/hooks.

Enhanced Tools

- - Bahco Laplander folding saw.
- - Small bolt cutter or breacher bar.
- - Night vision or thermal monocular (if available).

Travel Scenarios

- - If traveling 20+ miles on foot:
- - Include foot care kit (moleskin, blister pads, foot powder).
- - Mini stove + solid fuel tabs for extended travel.

Vehicle Storage Additions (Optional)

- - Blanket or sleeping bag.
- - Water jugs (1–2 gallons).
- - Fire extinguisher.
- - Jumper cables.
- - Tire repair kit and inflator.
- - Basic tool kit.
- - Collapsible shovel.