

# 100 DIY Survival Hacks



***100 Easy Lifesaving Survival Hacks Using  
Normal Everyday Items From Your House***

**Ronald Williams**

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NORMAL EVERYDAY ITEMS FROM YOUR HOUSE***

**Ronald Williams**

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## INTRODUCTION

Hi there, thank you for downloading my book, “100 DIY Survival Hacks.” I hope you enjoy reading it!

What you are about to read is one of the most comprehensive and yet easy to read DIY survival guides that will present you with one hundred different hacks on how to take random prominent household items and reapply those items into extraordinarily simple and yet lifesaving survival uses.

Are you getting ready for your next outdoor adventure, but feel you lack the necessary skills to survive should anything unexpectedly go wrong?

Are you concerned that a major disaster, such as an EMP attack or an economic collapse, is imminent and you feel you need to begin taking steps to prepare for it?

Do you go hunting, hiking, kayaking, or camping regularly but believe that you could still expand your knowledge about survival and improve your skills?

Or do you simply want to become more resourceful and learn some handy DIY hacks that could potentially save your life or the life of a loved one in the future?

If you have answered yes to any of these questions, then this book is definitely for you.

My name is Ronald Williams. I'm an outdoorsman, survivalist, traveler, and writer. I am writing this book to present you with one hundred of the easiest and yet most effective DIY survival hacks in existence, and I'm going to present them in the most easy-to-understand way possible.

Regardless of whether you have never gone on a serious outdoor adventure before or if you are already a seasoned outdoors person with lots of experience, this guide will prove to be very valuable to you.

Read this book, and you will find renewed value in simple items that you had previously taken for granted.

You will learn how to start campfires using untraditional methods, turn a drinking straw into a torch, navigate your way to safety with nothing more than a paper clip, build unconventional yet deadly defensive weapons with unexpected resources, use duct tape to protect your feet from frostbite in the winter, purify water with a coffee filter, and much more.

For each hack, I will teach you detailed instructions on how to use the hack and how it can save your life in a life threatening situation.

After reading this manual, you will:

- Become infinitely more resourceful in life
- Be able to improvise with random items you happen to have with you to get you out of harrowing situations
- Be safe, cool, and confident while exploring the wilderness or finding yourself in the middle of an emergency scenario that strikes at home
- Become more adaptable to unforgiving environments

Some of the hacks in this book you may already know, but others you probably do not. Some of them you will definitely use, and others you may never will.

Nonetheless, you'll never know which of the 100 hacks in this book you know and which ones you don't or which you will use and which you likely never will unless if you begin reading, so turn the page and we'll get started!

## **100 DIY Survival Hacks**

### **Turn An Altoids Tin Into A Portable Survival/Medical Kit**

This is one of the most well known survival hacks in this book, but it's still worth mentioning and as a result it's the hack we'll start out with.

You never know when an accident could happen, and even the smallest of injuries will require medical attention. When you are cut off from civilization and don't have access to proper medical care, the only person who can treat yourself is you, and it's important that you have the proper equipment on you to increase your chances of survival.

Therefore, it would be very nice and potentially even lifesaving if you could carry an entire survival or medical kit with you at all times, especially when you venture into the outdoors such as for a quick hike or a fishing trip.

Take your Altoids tin and fill it up with survival items such as matches, a small compass, and fishing line and hooks to make a miniature survival kit, or thread, needle, scissors, gauze pad, and bandages to make a first aid kit (or a survival and first aid kit combination).

It really is that simple; the only limit to what you can put into an Altoids tin (other than the physical size of the items of course), is your imagination.

You can then keep this Altoids tin in your pocket and carry it around with you wherever you go as part of your EDC (every day carry). The items will be kept organized and safe from debris, water, and damage by being in the Altoids tin, and you'll have peace of mind knowing you have essential survival/first aid gear with you at all times.

## **Make Charred Cloth With An Altoids Tin**

Here's another cool use for your Altoids tin: use it to make charred cloth. In any survival situation, building fire is essential. With fire, you can cook food and boil water, you can get warm, you can see when it's pitch black out, and you can keep hungry predators as well.

Therefore, you must have a quick and easy means to get fire going as well. If you're cold and wet, whether you make a fire successfully or not will mean the difference between life and death.

Most people believe that as long as they have a magnesium flint striker or a box of matches with them, they'll be able to start a fire no problem. But this isn't necessarily true. You need to have something for your sparks to catch onto so you can have a full flame. Charred cloth will take a spark and convert it into a flame easier than practically anything else out there.

For this hack, you will need an Altoids tin, some cotton fabric, a knife, and a fire.

Now follow these steps:

1. Place your cotton fabric into the Altoids tin and shut the lid
2. Puncture a hole in the tin with your knife
3. Place the Altoids tin by a fire for five or ten minutes
4. Withdraw the Altoids tin carefully, and allow it to cool
5. Open the lid, and the cotton fabric inside will now be charred cloth



This charred cloth will take a spark and convert it into a flame in any environment or set of conditions (even when it's extremely rainy and windy outside).

### **Use Aluminum Foil To Keep Your Sleeping Bag Dry**

When you're camping outside in your sleeping bag, one of the biggest enemies to your sleeping bag will be nothing other than moisture. Fortunately, you can keep your sleeping bag protected by using aluminum foil.

In fact, aluminum foil will be one of the best insulating materials for your sleeping bag period. Just place the aluminum foil under your sleeping bag before you go to bed, and it will keep your sleeping bag warm and dry throughout the night even if it's right over the ground.

### **Warm Yourself With Aluminum Foil**

Even better than using aluminum foil to keep your sleeping bag dry and warm is to use it to keep YOU dry and warm.

If you get a fire going and then tie a wall of aluminum foil between two trees behind it, the heat will reflect back from the aluminum foil right back to you.

In your home, you can also tie your aluminum foil directly on your windows that are facing the sun. Again, the heat will reflect back into your home to keep you warm, which could come in handy during the winter months when the power is out.

### **Use Aluminum Foil As A Fishing Lure**

Fish are one of the best sources of protein in a survival situation, but when you don't have traditional fishing equipment with you, you'll have to improvise using resources you already have.

You can use any branch or stick to serve as the pole, your shoelaces to serve as the line, a paperclip or soda can tab to serve as the fishing hook, and whatever worms you dig up in the ground as bait.

But there's still one more piece you need to complete your fishing set up, and that is the lure to attract the attention of the fish in the first place.

Fish are naturally attracted to anything that's shiny, so attaching a strip of aluminum foil to your fishing line is sure to get their attention.

### **Build A DIY Faraday Cage On The Cheap**

One of the most devastating disasters that could ever hit the United States is an EMP (electromagnetic pulse) attack. Such an attack would take down the power grid either in a certain area of the country or across the whole country at once, and all electronics would be instantly rendered useless.

Fortunately, there is one way you can protect your electronic device(s) of choice from the EMP attack, and that is to keep it in a Faraday cage, the concept of which has existed since the 1830s.

You may believe that building a Faraday cage is a long and expensive process, but in reality, you can build it with nothing more than a cardboard box, a T-shirt, plastic wrap, aluminum foil, and tape.

To build a Faraday cage, just follow these steps:

1. Wrap your electronic device of choice completely in a T-shirt
2. Completely wrap the T-shirt in plastic wrap
3. Place the wrapped electronic device in the cardboard box
4. Close the box and tape it shut

5. Wrap the cardboard box with a minimum of three layers of aluminum foil

And that's literally it! Your electronic device, whether it be a laptop, a phone, a tablet, or whatever, will be fully functional even when the EMP attack hits.

I would also invest in a solar charger and power cord, so you can charge your device when the battery runs low.

### **Make Toothpaste Out Of Baking Soda**

Personal hygiene will be of paramount importance in a disaster scenario, especially because sanitation standards are going to drop hugely and disease will be rampant.

Dental hygiene is therefore also obviously of paramount concern, and even if you run out of toothpaste, you can still make your own out of baking soda.

Baking soda truly is the most versatile personal hygiene/cleaning agent in existence, and toothpaste is just one of them any personal hygiene products you can make out of it.

To use baking soda as toothpaste, just follow these steps:

1. Run your toothbrush under running water
2. Dip the toothbrush into the baking soda
3. Use the toothbrush as you normally would to clean and whiten your teeth

Simple, right?

## **Use Baking Soda To Make Soap**

You can also use baking soda to make soap. Just follow these steps:

1. Mix the baking soda and some water together in a container
2. If you desire, add a dozen drops of an essential oil of your choice, but this isn't completely necessary
3. Stir this mixture together
4. The mixture should now become a paste
5. To use as soap, pour the paste over your hands, rub your hands together, and then rinse under warm running water

## **Use Baking Soda To Make Laundry Detergent**

We aren't done with baking soda yet! There are many more cleaning agents you can make with it, one of which is laundry detergent.

Just throw your dirty clothes in a tub of warm water, and then pour in a half cup of baking soda. Scrub the clothes and the baking soda will work just as good as normal laundry detergent.

## **Use Baking Soda To Neutralize Battery Corrosion**

We still aren't done with baking soda just yet. You can use it to get rid of battery corrosion and acid on literally any kind of battery, whether it be a hand held battery or a big car battery.

Just mix the baking soda with some water and then soak a T-shirt or cloth in it. Use the cloth to scrub away the corrosion from the battery.

To stop further corrosion, you'll need to use petroleum jelly to wipe down the terminals.

### **Use Baking Soda As A Fire Extinguisher**

One last survival hack for baking soda that we will talk about is to use it as a fire extinguisher. The reason why baking soda can extinguish flames so well is because it's basically hydrogen, sodium, and carbon dioxide mixed together.

However, how you put out the fire is critical. If you mix water and baking soda together and then throw it over the fire, it will only make the fire worse.

Fortunately, by just throwing baking soda on the fire alone, it will put it out instantly.

### **Scrape Ice Away From Windows With Credit Cards**

Have any old credit cards that you don't use anymore lying around? Rather than throw them away, put them to good use. One example is to use it to scrape away the ice from windows or a vehicle. You will be shocked at how effective the credit card is, and it will be as if you don't need a normal ice scraper!

### **Clean Your Nails With A Credit Card**

Really, cleaning your nails is a serious survival necessity? Well, it's not really, but keeping yourself clean is still important in a survival situation, and the edge of a credit card will work well to get rid of all the gunk and debris that accumulates beneath your finger nails.

### **Turn An Old Belt Into Strands Of Cordage**

If you have an old leather belt that's worn out and not of much use anymore, it may be time to turn that belt into strands of cords that you can use for a myriad of different survival uses, whether it be replacing your shoelaces, tying splints to a fractured limb, building shelter or snares, fishing line, and so on.

Just use a knife to cut down the belt into progressively thinner cords. You can make the cords as thin or as large as you desire.

### **Use A Belt To Make A Knife Spear**

A knife spear is an excellent defensive weapon in a survival situation because it can help keep hungry predators at bay. Just use a belt to tie the hilt of your knife to the end of a durable pole, and you're set!

### **Pack Firewood with A Belt**

While you're trekking through the wilderness and you find yourself in an area with lots of dry wood, bring that wood with you! It just may be a couple more hours of walking before the wood in your environment is no longer suitable for starting fires.

Just use your belt to bundle up the pieces of firewood you collect together, and then haul it over your shoulder as you travel.

### **Turn Your Belt Into A Highly Effective Defensive Weapon**

The knife spear is just one example of a weapon that you can build with the aid of a belt. But you can also use just the belt as a weapon itself.

In fact, the belt is one of the most overlooked survival weapons in existence, while also being a weapon that can inflict serious damage on an opponent.

First, use a sharp edge such as a sharp rock or knife to sharpen the buckle. Then, grab the belt by the other side and use it as a whip, with the sharpened buckle inflicting the most damage on the opponent.

### **Turn Bungee Cords Into A Clothesline**

This is one of the most practical use for bungee cords there is. Just hook two or three bungee cords between two trees and then hang your clothes up to dry!

### **Use Your Bungee Cords To Get Some Good Exercise In**

You have to stay in shape during a survival situation, and that means working your muscles. Beyond the physical activities and survival related tasks that you'll be completing, you can also use bungee cords to flex your muscles as well.

Just pull the bungee cords between your hands or step on the middle and then pull back is not only a great way to work your muscles, it's also a great way to pass the time as well.

## **Retain Your Rifle or Pistol Magazines With Bungee Cords**

Many pistol and rifle magazine carriers currently use retention cords in order to hold the magazines securely in place. If a retention cord becomes broken or if you build your own mag carriers, just use bungee cords as the retention cords instead.

## **Use Chap Stick To Waterproof Anything**

Yes, you can use chap stick to waterproof literally anything. For example, if any holes pop up in your poncho, tent, tarp, or clothes, just use your chap stick to plug up those holes and prevent any water from getting in.

## **Heal Cuts With Chap Stick**

In a survival situation, even the smallest cuts must be treated with the strictest of attention in order to prevent life threatening infections from setting in.

While chap stick is a poor choice for healing large or deep cuts, it is a superb choice for taking care of smaller cuts because it can keep down the bleeding while also preventing dirt and debris from getting into the wound.

## **Use Chap Stick To Stop Frostbite**

Frostbite is a major concern in any cold or frigid environment, but by applying chap stick to any areas of exposed skin (such as the ears or the tip of the nose), you can stop frostbite from setting in.

## **Use Chap Stick To Get A Fire Going**



Did you know that chap stick is flammable? In fact, it's one of the best fire starters that you can use. The moment it comes into contact with a spark, it will light up into a flame almost instantly.

If you need to get a fire going quickly, just rub some chap stick on your kindling, and light it with up with a lighter, magnesium flint striker, or match.

### **Use Chap Stick To Prevent Blisters**

If you see the warning signs of a blister, you can prevent that blister from growing further by rubbing chap stick directly over it.

### **Store Items In Your Chap Stick Container**

Don't let your empty chap stick container go to waste! There are a number of items that you can discreetly store in an empty chap stick container, including fishing line, food seasoning, or money (I'm fond of storing rolled up dollar bills in chap stick containers in particular).

### **Filter Water With A Coffee Filter**

Aren't coffee filters supposed to, well, filter coffee? Yes, they are, but you can use them to help filter out water as well.

When you collect water in a survival situation, it may not be safe to drink and you can't take the risk of drinking it without treating it. In fact, drinking unsafe water can potentially be more dangerous than not drinking any water at all.

While running your water through a coffee filter cannot get rid of the bacteria that you cannot see, it can get rid of visible gunk and debris. After running the water through your coffee filter, you would just need to treat it

with purification tablets to get rid of the bacteria, and it will be safe to drink!

### **Carry and Wrap Food In A Coffee Filter**

To keep your food covered and transport it while you're moving, just wrap it up in a coffee filter!

### **Use Coffee Filters Soaked In Cooking Grease To Get A Fire Going**

Coffee filters are yet another item that is highly flammable, and it's even more flammable when it's been soaked in cooking grease. In fact, a grease soaked coffee filter will be just as good for getting a fire going as a cotton ball or Q-tips that's been soaked in Vaseline.

### **Use A Coffee Filter As A Makeshift Bandage**

Remember that all wounds must be absolutely treated with the strictest of attention in a survival situation, and you must absolutely cover any kind of an open wound to keep infection from setting in. This is not negotiable.

If you lack traditional bandages or gauze pads, there's no need to fear, because a clean and unused coffee filter will work as a superb bandage alternative. Use it to cover the wound completely, and then secure it with string, tape, your shoelaces, or whatever.

### **Use A Coffee Filter As A Cool Compress**

Soak a coffee filter in water and then place it over your forehead to cool off or calm down a headache. If you've just suffered a serious injury, resting

with a cool compress over your head will be one of the most important steps to recovery (after treating and elevating the room).

### **Freshen Up Your Room With A Coffee Filter and Baking Soda**

For this hack, we're going to use baking soda and a coffee filter simultaneously. You'll also need string.

Fill up a coffee filter with an appropriate amount of baking soda, and then tie it with string. Place it in the middle of the room that has a bad smell in it, and the smell should start to go away after only a matter of minutes.

Make more of these baking soda/coffee filter combinations, and place them strategically wherever you want. I would especially recommend this for when you're setting up a quarantine room, medical station, or a makeshift bathroom.

### **Grow A Garden With Coffee Filters**

Yes, you can grow plants or even crops in your coffee filters. With enough coffee filters and resources, you can even make your own indoor garden!

Just dampen a coffee filter in water and then place a seed on it. Fold up the coffee filter and put it into a Ziploc bag.

Now place the bag under an area that gets plenty of sunlight, and in a matter of days, the seed will sprout!

### **Last Ditch Option For Coffee Filters: Toilet Paper**

This one is self-explanatory. When your toilet paper supply runs out, you'll have to turn to other options, and a coffee filter is a superior choice to leaves or plants (which for all you know could be poisonous).

## **The Best Fire Starter Option: Cotton Balls and Vaseline**

This is one of the oldest survival tricks in existence, and it's also one of my all time favorites. I couldn't possibly write this book without including this hack, even if most people are already aware of it.

What you do is you take a cotton ball (or the end of a q-tip) and cover it completely in Vaseline. If you don't have Vaseline, you can use petroleum jelly, chap stick, hand sanitizer, tree sap, or cooking grease instead.

The moment a spark or ember comes into contact with the soaked cotton ball, it will light up almost instantly. I recommend that you keep your Vaseline soaked cotton balls in a plastic container or Ziploc bag for safe and organized transportation.

## **Repel Rodents With Peppermint Oil**

Soak a cotton ball or Q-tip in peppermint oil and then place it strategically in an area that's been infected with rodents, such as rats or mice. This will be one of the most effective DIY rodent repellents that you can use.

## **Turn An Ordinary Q-Tip Into A Candle Wick**

Have candle wax and a glass jar but not a wick? No problem. Just fill up the jar with the candle wax and then place a Q-tip sticking up into the wax. Light it up, and you'll have a candle that works amazingly well!

## **Repurpose Your Dental Floss Into Tripwire**

This hack is just plain cool. When you set up camp, you want to make sure intruders don't cross into your area while you sleep or rest.

Therefore, setting up tripwire around your camp perimeter is a wise move to make, and dental floss is a much better option than rope, paracord, or even natural vine just because it's far less visible (especially at night).

Furthermore, if you tie soda or beer cans to the floss and fill them up with pebbles, you will be alerted to the presence of an intruder if they just tap the floss (as the cans will rattle).

### **Make Your Matches Burn Longer With Dental Floss**

The wax on dental floss is flammable. Wrap it around the top part of a match, and the match will burn much longer (and brighter).

### **Turn Dental Floss Into A Clothesline**

You'll need to wrap multiple strands of dental floss together for this to work, but it is possible. Tie the strands of dental floss between two trees, and it will be strong enough to hold up shirts and pants. Just one strand of dental floss should be strong enough to hold up underwear, gloves, and socks.

### **Replace Your Shoelaces With Dental Floss**

If anything happens to your shoelaces, just replace them with dental floss. This hack is actually important, because walking around in shoes or boots that move around will cause blisters to form on your feet, and this just makes it painful to walk.

### **Use Dental Floss To Mend Clothing**

One strand of dental floss and a needle is all that is needed to mend rips in clothing (or blankets, tents, ponchos, or tarps for that matter).

### **Use Dental Floss As Stitches**

In addition to using dental floss to mend clothing, you can also use it to mend yourself as well. Any open wounds you sustain must be closed off to prevent infection, and if the wound is too big for a simple bandage or gauze pad, you will have to close it off yourself with stitches. If you don't have literal stitches with you, use dental floss instead.

Yes, this process will be painful, but it's important to seal off the wound to prevent infection, and dental floss is an excellent option because of how thin and yet durable it is. In fact, someone who glances at your stitched wound might not be even able to tell that it's dental floss!

### **Set Up Dental Floss As A Snare**

While I consider fish to be the best source of protein in the wilderness, the next best will be small game such as squirrels, rabbits, mice, and so on. Catching them will necessitate you having to set up traps or snares, and dental floss is an excellent option for this.

### **Carry Spices In Drinking Straws**

Spices aren't just good to have to add badly desired flavor to your survival meals. They're also a great bartering item in a post-apocalyptic scenario as well, and being able to carry them around in a highly portable manner would be a nice luxury in a disaster scenario.

Drinking straws are an excellent option for carrying around spices. Just seal, tape, or staple one end of the drinking straw shut, and then pour in the seasoning.

Close off the other end of the drinking straw that way, and you're set! Just cut the drinking straw open to pour the spices out.

### **Carry A Survival Kit In Your Drinking Straw**

Just as you can carry around a survival kit as part of your EDC in an Altoids tin like we talked about in the beginning of this book, you can also surprisingly enough carry around survival equipment in a drinking straw as well.

Examples of what you can carry in your drinking straw include matches, extremely thin candles, fishing line, pins, and so on.

### **Turn Your Drinking Straw Into A Torch**

For this method to work effectively, you are going to need to find the longest drinking straw that you possibly can.

Now, follow these steps:

1. Soak cotton in Vaseline (or another flammable material such as cooking grease, tree sap, or hand sanitizer)
2. Stuff this flammable cotton in your drinking straw, until the entire drinking straw is filled up
3. Seal off both ends of the drinking straw (tape, staple, glue, etc.)

4. When the time comes to use the torch, cut off the top of the straw with a knife or scissors
5. The cotton will now be exposed inside the drinking straw; pull some of it out
6. Light up the cotton with a fire starter, and your drinking straw torch will burn for several minutes

### **Carry Ammunition In Your Drinking Straw**

You can easily carry BBs, pellets, or .22 LR ammunition inside a drinking straw. The longer the straw, the more ammo you can carry. Be sure to seal off both ends of the drinking straw before storing or using.

### **Use A Drinking Straw To Vacuum Seal A Bag**

When storing food for the long term in plastic bags (even in normal Ziploc bags), the food will always last longer when there is less air in the bag.

You can use a drinking straw to suck as much air out of the Ziploc bag as possible. Simply close off most of the Ziploc bag (after storing food in it), leaving just enough space for your drinking straw to fit through.

Suck on the end of the straw, and the air will be vacuumed out of the straw. Quickly remove the drinking straw and seal off the rest of the bag, and you're good to go!

### **Use A Drinking Straw As A Toothpick**

This one is super easy. Flatten down your toothpick, and then cut through it on both sides, which makes the edge sharper. Now use this to get all the small pieces of food out of in between your teeth.



## **Use Duct Tape To Make A Knife Spear**

Earlier in this book, we talked about how you can wrap a belt around the hilt of a knife to a pole to make a knife spear, which is an excellent defensive weapon in a survival situation.

Well, now you can do the same thing, only you can use duct tape instead. Personally, I feel duct tape is the superior option to the belt for this particular hack.

## **Cut Duct Tape Into The Shape Of Arrow Feathers**

When building a DIY bow, you're going to need to make arrows for it to serve as the ammunition. And to make arrows, you're going to need to make feathers for it as well.

If you don't have access to actual bird feathers, in my experience carefully cut duct tape is the next best choice. For each arrow, you're going to need three strips of duct tape that each measure five inches long.

Tape the long side of the strip of duct tape to the end of your arrow shaft, and make sure that each strip are equal distances apart from each other.

To give the arrows added strength, take two strips of duct tape and tape them together, and then tape the bottoms of them to the end of the arrow.

## **Tie A Splint With Duct Tape**

A splint is necessary for successfully treating broken limbs, and the best splint to make will be two branches that have some sort of padding in between them and your arm or leg.

To secure the splint to your leg, duct tape makes for an excellent option. Specifically wrap the duct tape around the ankle/wrist, knee/elbow, and the upper thigh/shoulder.

## **Wrap A Sprained Ankle With Duct Tape**

You can also use duct tape to wrap around a sprained ankle. Be generous with the amount of duct tape that you use, as you'll want to give your foot plenty of support to fully heal.

## **Duct Tape As A Bandage/Gauze Pad Alternative**

If you don't have real bandages or gauze pads with you and you have to turn to alternatives, my top recommendation would be an unused paper towel coupled with duct tape.

Completely cover the wound with your paper towel, and then wrap it around with duct tape to secure it.

## **Use Duct Tape To Insulate Your Boots**

Wrap the top part of your boots with duct tape, so that the silver side of the boots faces upward, and your feet will become much, much warmer. Don't wrap duct tape around the bottom of the boots, or else you'll lose critical traction and will increase the possibility of you slipping.

## **Signal For Help With Garbage Bag**

To be more specific here, you'll need brightly colored garbage bags (orange works best because it stands out the best in the wilderness). Tie the garbage bag to a pole and wave it around, or just set it out flat on an open area along a hillside so pilots or hikers can spot it.

## **Use A Garbage Bag To Help Build Your Survival Shelter**

A garbage bag will work very well as a roof or a wall to your shelter, and in particular it can protect you from both the rain and the wind. Be sure to secure the bag with rocks and paracord.

### **Make A Survival Mattress**

Stuff your garbage bag with pine needles and leaves, and it will be a very warm, comfortable, and insulating mattress to sleep on. The most important part of it isn't its comfort, but the fact it puts a layer between you and the cold ground.

### **Set Up A Rain Catchment System With Your Garbage Bag**

We should all know how important water is in a survival situation. Water is life, and without it, we die (within three days, to be exact).

Therefore, having some sort of a rain catchment system is a must have priority in any survival situation, because you can't afford to let all that water fall and go to waste. Your life could depend on it.

There are a variety of items you can use to collect rain water, and a garbage bag is just one of those items (a tarp would suffice as well). Simply tie the garbage bag between two trees, and it will easily collect the water when it starts to rain.

### **Turn A Garbage Bag Into A Camp Shower**

Fill up your garbage bag completely with water and then tie it shut. Leave the bag out under the sun, such as on a flat rock or boulder, and the water will warm up.

Now hang up the shower under a tree branch with rope or paracord, and use a knife to poke a few small holes in the bottom. You can now have a nice

warm shower.

### **Turn A Garbage Bag Into A Clothes Washer**

Put your dirty clothes into a garbage bag and then fill up the bag with water and a half cup of soap or baking soda. Now tie the bag shut and just shake it around vigorously for four water. Drain out the soap water and then pour in warm water without soap or cleaning agents. Shake vigorously again to rinse out of the clothes, and then hang them up to dry.

### **Use A Garbage Bag As A Poncho**

Cut two holes in the sides of your garbage bag, and then one more in the top. Fit the garbage bag over you so it works as a poncho, and tie it around your waste with a belt or paracord.

### **Build A Solar Still**

A solar still is one of the most reliable methods for collecting clean drinking water in a survival situation, and the best part of it is the water will be ready to drink right away without having to purify or filter it.

You'll need some green vegetation, a digging tool, a container, a garbage bag, and five rocks.

Now, follow these steps:

1. Dig a hole a foot and a half deep and around two feet wide
2. Place your container in the center of the hole
3. Surround your container with the green vegetation

4. Place your garbage bag over the hole and secure it on four corners with rocks
5. Place one more rock in the middle of the garbage bag so it weighs down over the container

Over the course of the day, condensation will form on the garbage bag and drip down into the container. Build the solar still in the morning and then check up on it in the evening.

### **Build A DIY Torch**

To build a DIY torch, you will need water, a glass bottle, candle wicks, and torch fluid.

Now follow these steps:

1. Fill up the bottom part of the bottle with water
2. Fill up the rest of the bottle with torch fluid
3. Soak your candle wick in torch fluid
4. Now place your wick inside the bottle
5. Light up the wick and you're set!

### **Use A Glass Bottle To Boil Water**

One of the most surefire ways of making water safe to drink in a survival situation is to boil it. While boiling water cannot get rid of visible harmful substances, it can get rid of the harmful bacteria and pathogens that you cannot see.

Simply suspend the water filled glass bottle with a string over a fire, and allow it to boil for ten to fifteen minutes. Now remove the water from the flames, allow the water to cool off, and then drink.

### **Use Hand Sanitizer As A Fire Starter**

A simple bottle of hand sanitizer is one of my favorite items to carry in my bug out bag and survival kit. The reason why is because it serves two survival necessities very well: it works as both a personal hygiene item, and as a fire starter.

Thanks to its extremely high alcohol content, hand sanitizer will effortlessly take a flame even when it's raining, windy, or snowing outside. Simply pour it directly over your kindling or tinder, and it will convert even the smallest of sparks into a large flame.

### **Remove Stains From Clothes With Hand Sanitizer**

While this isn't a serious survival issue, clothing stains from blood, a beverage, or ink can be annoying. Fortunately, you don't have to let them annoy you, because simply rubbing hand sanitizer into the stain will get rid of it.

### **Treat Mosquito Bites With Hand Sanitizer**

If you think clothing stains are annoying, then you clearly haven't been bitten by a mosquito yet!

The itchiness caused from a hand sanitizer bite can last for several days, and it is incredibly irritating. The good news here is that hand sanitizer will work to help calm the sting and itchiness from the bite significantly. Simply apply a little hand sanitizer directly to the site of the bite and rub it over it.

## **Store Items In Your Hand Sanitizer Container**

Once you've used up all the hand sanitizer in your bottle, don't let the bottle go to waste! Put it to good use. Rinse out of the bottle with water and then use it for storing random items such as matches, seeds, ammunition, or whatever.

## **Replace A Lost Zipper Tab With A Paperclip**

Lost a zipper tab? Use a paper clip as a replacement!

## **Turn A Paper Clip Into A Fishing Hook**

Bend the paper clip into the shape of a fishing hook, and sharpen the edge with a knife. Now tie string or your fishing line to the other end, and stab your bait onto the hook part of the clip. You're all set!

## **Make A DIY Compass**

The ability to navigate in the wilderness and tell your sense of direction is one of the most important of all survival skills, because if you begin walking in the wrong direction, you'll waste valuable time and energy walking around in circles.

This is why compasses are one of the handiest items to have in a survival situation, and if you don't have a real compass with you, you can build your own.

You'll need a paperclip, a knife, a leaf, water, and a cup.

Now follow these steps:

1. Fill up your cup with water
2. Rest your leaf on the water so that it floats
3. Unbend your paperclip into a roughly straight line; you may need to cut the paperclip into a smaller piece
4. Magnetize your paper clip by rubbing your knife against it for at least a minute (some survivalists recommend two minutes)
5. Set your paper clip on the leaf, and wait at least thirty seconds
6. Your paperclip will now point into your north to south line

### **Use A Paperclip As A Finger Splint Or Toe Splint**

If you sustain a broken toe or finger in the wilderness, you must be able to stabilize it to help it heal. Cut a paper clip in two, and then unbend them into a straight line. Place them on either side of your digit, and then tie it down with string.

### **Use A Paperclip To Clean Your Fingernails**

Earlier in this book, we mentioned how you could clean your fingernails with a credit card. Well, you can easily do the same with a paper clip!

### **Turn A Plastic Water Bottle Into A Funnel**

This is a neat little trick. Cut the bottom part of your typical plastic water bottle away with a knife or scissors.



Now remove the cap at the end, and pour anything through the large end so it exits through the small end. It will work just as good as a funnel!

### **Trap Fish To Eat With A Plastic Water Bottle (or Bottles)**

Repeat the step in the last hack by cutting away the bottom part of your plastic water bottle. However, keep the cap on.

Now stand in a stream and face against the current, and set the bottle into the current with the large open end of the bottle facing upstream.

Be patient, and wait for a small fish or something else to swim into the bottle. Alternatively, you can do this with multiple cut bottles by tying them to a string and then tying the string to both ends of the stream, with the open end of the bottles all facing upstream.

Check back on the bottles an hour or two later to see what you've caught!

### **Make Your Plastic Water Bottle Become A Portable Greenhouse**

Did you know that you could have a portable greenhouse with a plastic water bottle?

Follow these steps:

1. Cut your plastic water bottle in two
2. Puncture holes in the bottom part of the bottle
3. Fill up the bottle with soil
4. Add a little water into the soil
5. Plant your seed into the soil

6. Place your other half of the bottle over this half, and a greenhouse effect will occur where the seed will germinate and grow quicker than it otherwise would have

What's best, is that you can carry this greenhouse with you wherever you go.

### **Make A DIY Broom Out Of A Plastic Water Bottle**

This isn't a serious survival skill or anything, but it's still a fun little hack. Cut the bottom part of a plastic water bottle into strips with a knife or scissors, and then duct tape your bottle to a stick. Just like that, you have a DIY broom.

### **Use A Safety Pin As A Fishing Hook**

The point of safety pins are naturally sharp, so they will work well as fishing hooks, just like sharpened paper clips like we talked about earlier.

### **Remove Splinters With Safety Pins**

Splinters are incredibly annoying, not to mention painful. Furthermore, if you fail to treat a splinter and the site of the injury, a potentially dangerous infection could set in.

Therefore, you need to get rid of that splinter right away, and a splinter is actually one of the best tools for the job because of how sharp and narrow it is.

## **Use Safety Pins As Emergency Sutures**

A gaping open wound will need to be closed off right away to prevent infection from setting in. Assuming you don't have actual medical sutures with you, safety pins will work as a great alternative.

Clean out the wound with water before to get as much of the dirt and gunk out, and then begin closing the wound with the pins. Yes, it will be extremely painful, but it's also necessary to help heal the wound and prevent future infection or injury.

## **Strap Items To Your Backpack With Safety Pins**

Who says your backpack has to carry items inside of it? Why can't it carry items on the outside of it as well? Simply hook the items directly to the backpack with a safety pin (I've found this method works well for coats and other clothing items).

## **Turn Your Shower Curtain Into A Sleeping Bag**

Here's a cool trick that very few people know about. Shower curtains are waterproof (obviously), and as such they work great for shelter building or making sleeping bags.

Fold up your shower curtain so that the grommets on both sides are right next to each other. Hold the grommets shut with paracord, string, vine, zip ties, or whatever. Now crawl into the shower curtain, and it will work just like a sleeping bag.

## **Keep Your Wood Dry With A Shower Curtain**

You could also use a tarp for this method, but you can cover up your wood pile(s) with shower curtains to keep them dry when it's raining outside.

## **Set Up A Rain Catchment System With A Shower Curtain**

Just as you can collect rain with a tarp or garbage bag, so you can easily do with a shower curtain as well. All you will need to do is tie it between three or four trees, and wait for it to rain!

## **Make A Quarantine Room With Shower Curtains**

Overall I feel this is the most unique hack for a shower curtain. Remember that sanitation standards are going to fall significantly in a disaster, and that means diseases will be running rampant.

If anyone in your family or survival group catches a disease, they must be separated from the rest of the group immediately and kept separated until they have recovered from the disease.

There's a solid reason why plastic sheeting is often used for quarantine rooms; it keeps the diseases at bay.

In the typical American home, shower curtains are one of the best sources of plastic sheeting available.

Use at least two shower curtains for the entrance, so you have to walk through one curtain and shut it before walking through the second curtain and into the quarantine room.

## **Make Charred Cloth With A Soda or Beer Can**

In the beginning of this book we talked about how you can make charred cloth with an Altoids tin. Well, the same principle exists for soda and beer cans as well.

Just stuff cotton cloth into your soda can, and then close it off as much as you can. Toss it into the fire for a few minutes, and then safely withdraw it from the flames with a stick.

The cloth inside will be charred and ready to use to get a fire going.

### **Make A Fish Hook Out Of A Soda Can Tab**

Pull the tab off of a soda can, and then cut a small piece away so the tab looks like a hook. Attach it to your fishing line and stab bait onto the point, and you're ready to start fishing!

### **Make A Lantern Out Of Your Empty Soda Can**

Use a knife and/or scissors to cut away a piece of your soda can so that the opening is exposed.

Place a candle into the can, and then attach paracord to the tab.

Light up the candle, and carry it around just like you would a normal lantern.

### **Become Alerted To Intruders With A Soda Can**

Fill up a soda can (or beer can), with pebbles and then tie to your trip wire that you set up around camp. When the wire shakes or is disturbed, the cans will rattle and you'll become alerted to the presence of an intruder.

### **Use Your Sock As A Defensive Weapon**

Put a six ounce rock into your sock. Hold onto the end of a sock and swing it like a club for defense.

### **Carry Ammo In Your Sock**

I've found that a sock is one of the most handy items available for carrying loose rounds of ammunition. Tie off the end of the sock with string so the rounds don't fall out.

### **Use Your Socks As Mittens**

Sure, your socks are meant to keep your feet warm and covered, but why can't they do the same for your hands?

### **Use Your Socks As Gaiters**

Wear your socks on the outside of your boots, and they will effectively serve as boot gaiters to help prevent bugs, gunk, insects, or even some water from entering into your boots.

### **Repurpose Cotton Socks As A Torch**

Soak your cotton sock in something that's highly flammable (cooking great, chap stick, hand sanitizer, Vaseline, etc.)

Now wrap the sock around a stick, and light it up on fire. You now have a torch!

### **Insulate Your Shoes With A Ziploc Bag**

Normal tennis shoes are a poor choice for wilderness survival because they do a terrible job of resisting water and moisture (especially when you're in a damp environment).

But if tennis shoes, you'll have to make do with them, and keeping your feet dry is of paramount importance for preventing gangrene.

One of the cheapest and easiest solutions here is simply to wrap up your tennis shoe in a Ziploc bag, and tie the Ziploc bag to the shoe with string. Your traction may suffer a little, but your feet will be kept more dry.

### **Repurpose A Ziploc Bag As A Funnel**

This is more of a home kitchen hack, but it could easily be used in a survival situation as well.

All you need to do is to cut a hole in the corner of your bag, and you can then pour anything you need through it. This will work well for filtering out visible offensive substances from water (during the filtering/purification process) in particular.

### **Keep An Electronic Device Safe From Moisture With Rice and A Ziploc Bag**

You must keep your electronic devices safe in the wilderness, as the last thing you want is needing to contact someone in an emergency only to realize that water has killed your phone (or GPS).

Stop this from happening by filling up a Ziploc bag with rice and then putting your device in the bag so it's completely covered by the rice. Seal up the bag and carry it with you as you travel, and you'll be rest assured knowing your electronic device is one hundred percent protected from water and moisture.

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## About The Author

Ronald Williams is an accomplished outdoorsman, survivalist, and survival writer whose passion is making sure that people are equipped with the knowledge and skills they need to outlast any kind of unexpected survival or disaster situation that comes their way.

Most importantly, Ronald wants to make sure that each person understands that disaster preparedness is a major responsibility to take not only for the safety of themselves, but for their friends and families as well.

Drawing upon both his extensive knowledge and his personal experiences, Ronald's books and articles have helped thousands of men and women across the globe learn how they can properly prepare themselves and their families for whatever unexpected disaster scenario comes their way to boost their chances of survival and ensure that they make it out alive.

Ronald has ghostwritten hundreds of articles on disaster preparedness for various reputable survival publications, including Off The Grid News.com, Survival Sullivan.com, Reloader Addict.com, Urban Survival Site.com, Survival Know How.com, and Legally Concealed.com.

When Ronald's not writing, he's usually camping, hiking, hunting, fishing,

teaching others about survival and disaster preparedness, and spending time with his friends and family.