

Yet there are still clear, life-altering differences between a good kit and a bad one. Many people pack bags that are too heavy to be useful, for example, because they (wrongly) assume they'll definitely have access to a working vehicle.

You might see all kinds of labels for what is essentially the same concept:

- Emergency kit / emergency bag
- 72 hour kit / 72 hour bag
- Bug out bag
- Go bag
- Evacuation bag / evac bag
- Survival bag / survival kit
- INCH bag (“I’m Never Coming Home Again”)
- GOOD bag (“Get Out Of Dodge”)
- SHTF bag (“Shit Hit The Fan”)

We use some of those labels interchangeably, like bug out bag and go bag, but don't tend to use time-based labels like 72-hour bag or INCH bag.

More: [Why you should use a prioritized bag system instead of bags based on timelines](#)

Although an “emergency kit” can mean a lot of different things (like a kit you keep in your vehicle during snow season), we believe a bug out bag is the closest thing to a singular emergency kit because it's the one bundle of stuff that can help you deal with the widest range of scenarios.

It's important to use a solid mental framework and understand why gear is included (or not), so that you can make your own decisions when putting together what's right for you.

That's why, in addition to pointing out our favorite products, weights, and reasonings for each category, we include common customizations and things to avoid so you can personalize your bag.

Or you can just keep things easy and follow this list exactly. We're confident it's a great mix for a wide range of people and scenarios — many of our personal bags look exactly like this.

Just want to see a list of specific products? Disagree with our suggestions?

We used our brand-spankin-new (and still in development) [kit builder](#) to turn this guide into kits that you can clone, customize, and share, complete with recommended products, weights, and prices:

- [Bug out bag broken down by priority levels](#)
- [Bug out bag broken down by gear categories](#)

If you disagree or just want to share your own loadout, leave a comment with a link to your kit!