

7 Ways to Make Preparedness Cheaper

- 1.** If you have canning supplies, consider canning your own food to save on purchasing canned goods. Set some of the food you canned aside for an emergency. Rotate with freshly canned food each year.
- 2.** Most 72 hour kits require large storage containers. Rather than spend the money on purchasing one, try asking grocery stores and restaurants if they have empty ice-cream or yogurt containers (gallon sized). Remember to wash and bleach the inside before storing items in it – you don't want your items to take on a spoiled milk-product smell.
- 3.** Purchasing items for preparedness can be expensive. Instead of trying to purchase all the items at once, spread the preparedness process out over a couple months. This also gives you the opportunity to partake in seasonal sales and coupon prices (the money saved is worth the time it takes to cut out coupons!)
- 4.** If you replacing your child's school backpack, use the old backpack (provided it isn't falling apart at the seams) to create your Emergency Go Bag. Your kids can help you fill the bag with necessary items. Not only are you reusing items, but also teaching your kids about the importance of emergency preparedness!
- 5.** Consider creating your own first-aid kit. The Red Cross, CDC, and FEMA all list items that should be found in your first-aid kit. Reuse an old, fishing tackle-box or purchase a cheap, plastic tackle-box and fill with necessary first-aid items. Remember to keep all medications labeled with expiration dates and to replace the items when they expire.
- 6.** Try to get into the habit of never letting the gas tank get below $\frac{1}{4}$ full. You are going to have to fill that tank anyway, so make an effort to fill sooner than later. This way, you will always have gas incase you need to leave in a hurry. The average compact car can get 50-100 miles on a $\frac{1}{4}$ tank of gas (estimating 20-30mpg with a 12 gallon tank).
- 7.** The idea of preparing for an emergency can be ominous. Rather, prepare as if you were going to be camping (minus the RV). Not only will you save money by allowing your camping/outdoor tools double as your 72-Hour Shelter-In-Place Kit, but you also save space by keeping items in the same location. You also make packing for those camping trips much easier! Just remember to replace what you use if you do go camping.