

HOME STORAGE

STAYING ORGANIZED

When a disaster hits, the last thing you want to be doing is rummaging through a messy, unorganized room filled with necessary emergency supplies.

Follow these steps to keep your home emergency supply kit as organized as possible.

- Start with food and water, grouping items into logical groups, like canned veggies, and then fruits, then nuts and oats, and so on.
Rotate older food and water items to the front, and throw out anything that's expired.
- Keep items like flashlights, radios, and blankets in their own designated area.
- We recommend organizing each part of your home emergency supplies by the needs of each individual member of your household. Put the items in individual bags or containers and label them with that person's name.
- Consider obtaining a high-quality, durable duffel bag or other types of way to carry your emergency supply kit. You never know when you'll have to evacuate, and an emergency kit does you no good if you have to leave it behind.
- As your living situation and/ or family grows or gets older, your needs will change as well. Be sure to keep that in mind as well. Your five year old will no longer need stored baby food, and so on.

MAKE A THOROUGH CHECKLIST AND INVENTORY

- Once you have a mental checklist of everything you have in your supply kit, it's time to write everything down.
- Write down the type of food, how many servings, and when it expires.
Then move on to water and do the same thing, followed by medical supplies.
- Lastly, write down any kind of perishable miscellaneous items that you might have as a part of your home emergency kit.
- Not only does keeping an updated checklist and inventory of your home survival kit take the guesswork out of emergency preparedness, but you'll also get the added bonus of sharing your inventory with family and friends. This way, you'll get ideas of what you need to add to your kit and help others do the same.

PROPER STORAGE OF YOUR HOME EMERGENCY KIT

- Whether it's a spare bedroom, or a closet, or basement – be sure that wherever you decide to store your emergency supplies, that you can easily and safely access it at any time. Each household will have individual needs, but everyone will need to be able to get to emergency supplies.
- In addition to home emergency kits, get yourself a kit for each vehicle you own. If possible, get yourself an emergency kit for your workplace as well.
- FEMA recommends having enough food and water for every family member, coworker or pet to last you at least 72 hours.
- Pick a place in your home to store your emergency kit that has the least amount of temperature fluctuations and is as dry as possible. This will help preserve your items and keep them from spoiling.
- Do not store near chemicals or petroleum products; gas, paint, solvents
- Outside storage of your emergency kit on the path of your evacuation route is recommended, such as a garage or shed.
- Households with 3 or more family members, consider organizing supplies By Person. Add a personalized container (like a pouch) to your emergency kit for each family member. Next, label it with their name and store all of their supplies in it including medications and personal items.

- Keep emergency supplies for infants in their own dedicated baby duffel bag. Their preparedness needs change monthly (in terms of food, diaper sizes, etc.). You will want to be able update their supplies more frequently than other family members.