



## Survive Doomsday Kayak Bug Out Kit List

The gear is listed in alphabetical order. What works for me may not work for you, so use my list as a guide and customize your kit to meet your situation. Stay mindful that this is primarily gear chosen for a *freshwater* kayak bug out. If you plan to bug out over salt water, your list will likely include some other items.

Your bug out kayak is your lifeline, and with these carefully selected items, you'll be well-prepared to handle various survival challenges. Regularly review and update your kayak bug out kit, ensuring that everything remains in good condition and within the expiry dates. Adjust it to fit the seasons.

Remember, the goal is to be self-sufficient during at least a three-day bug out period. Prioritize the essentials and avoid unnecessary items that may weigh you down. Keep your bug out kayak organized and accessible, so you can quickly access what you need when you need it.

Redundancy is also something that you should aim for. In prepping, two is one and one is none. It is too easy for something to break or fail. You need redundancy to account for gear failure, losing an item, etc. This is a concept you should use in all your preps, not just bug out gear.

- Aquaquest Tarp - A tarp is a versatile tool in any bug out situation, but even more so in a kayak bug out kit. It can provide protection from the elements, cover your gear, create a shelter, or help hide your kayaks. I love the Aquaquest tarp because it's a mission-built tarp. It's designed for preppers. If cost is a concern, a cheaper tarp will do, but the Aquaquest tarp has more attachment points, stronger stitching, and better overall quality. I covered this tarp in more detail in my Tarp vs Tent article.
- Backpacking Stove - Backpacking stoves are perfect for a kayak bug out because they're compact and lightweight. I use the Jetboil because it's so convenient, but another option is the MSR Whisperlite, which I'd used for many years prior to the Jetboil.
- Bic Lighter - Simple and cheap. Pack a few.
- Billy Pot - These are a bushcraft basic, a simple stainless steel pot that can hang over an open fire. You can boil water (purify it) and cook food. You can also store food and gear in it to conserve space. If cost is a concern, just cut out a large tin can and add a wire handle, like the hobos did.
- Boonie Hat - You need a hat that will keep the sun out of your eyes and off your face and neck. A regular sun hat can work, but I like the boonie-style hat because it also keeps a bug net away from my face.
- Bug Net - Biting insects might not be an issue where you're at, but bug nets are so compact, cheap, and lightweight that I have one in every bug out bag and vehicle.
- Bushcraft Knife - You need a good, fixed blade knife, and a strong fixed blade usually means a bushcraft knife. Need advice? See my video on the best bushcraft knife.
- Caffeine Pills - Bugging out may require you to push your body beyond its normal limits. Caffeine pills can give you the energy needed to keep moving.

- Cellphone - This probably doesn't even need to be on the list as most people never leave the house without one. Their value cannot be understated, however. The modern cellphone is much more than just a telephone. It's a small computer in your hand that can hold contact information, maps, digital files, etc.
- Clothes - Quick drying is the key here. Oh, and don't forget extra socks!
- Emergency Whistle - Odds are being found is the last thing you want in a bug out, but you can't take chances on the water. A whistle is louder and takes a lot less effort than hollering. They're cheap, tiny, and weigh almost nothing. Every member of your party should have one.
- Extra Batteries - Obviously.
- Ferro Rod - A Ferro rod can start countless fires. One note: practice using one in advance. There's more to making a fire with a Ferro rod than just striking it with steel. Know the basics of starting a fire in the outdoors.
- First Aid Kit - This is another "no duh" item. Don't forget personal prescription drugs.
- Food - The traditional bug out bag is designed for 3 days. Focus on calorie-dense foods. Freeze-dried packaged foods and MREs are great choices. Their packaging is also waterproof. Energy bars are also good.
- Handheld GPS - A map and compass are foolproof. A handheld GPS is fast, convenient, and effective. Carry both.
- Handheld Radio - I use the Baofeng UV-5R radio with upgraded antenna. It's a popular radio with preppers for good reason. It's cheap enough that everyone in your party should carry one.
- Headlamp - I use the Petzl ACTIK CORE because I use mine every day and I don't want to keep replacing batteries. It's rechargeable, but also takes AAA batteries. I like the option to either recharge the light or use batteries.
- Map and Compass - Ideally you know how to use a map and compass for navigation, but even without in-depth land navigation knowledge, they can still be used by a novice to aid navigation. I treat my maps with a waterproofing product to help keep them safe in wet environments.
- Multi-tool - These are necessary in any bug out bag.
- Paracord - Preppers know the value of Paracord.
- PFD and Paddle - Don't skimp on quality or comfort.
- Tactical Light - I carry the Olight Odin Mini. I like it because it's powerful and rechargeable, but the downside is it doesn't take external batteries, so you need a means to recharge it in the field.
- Toilet Paper - It's better than using leaves.
- Pack Saw - This might be optional for some people, but I like it in addition to a bushcraft knife. It's great for gathering firewood or other bushcraft uses like fixing your shelter.
- Sunscreen - You don't want to deal with a severe sunburn on day one.
- Utensils - Focus on lightweight here. Buy a cheap but durable fork/spoon combo or some titanium utensils.
- Water Filter - This is a must. I use the Katadyn Vario. It's reliable and pumps out a lot of clean water in a short amount of time. It's great for a group of people, but there are cheaper options such as the Water Straw.

- Water Knife - By "water knife" I mostly mean a diving-style knife, one that allows quick access while in the water in case you need to cut something (often straps or rope) but doesn't have the point that could cause accidental harm. I strap mine to my PFD.