



How and why to build a raised garden bed

STATEPOINT - Fairly easy to construct and even easier to maintain, raised garden beds are a great way to raise plants and vegetables in the comfort and convenience of your backyard. In a recent episode of the Exmark Original Series, "Done-in-A-Weekend-Extreme," landscape designer and show host, Doug Scott, spoke to organic gardener Joe Lamp'l of "Growing a Greener World" about the ins and outs of raised garden beds. Here are some of the top insights and tips Lamp'l shared.

• Why use raised garden beds? A raised garden bed can help facilitate the ideal growing environment, as most people don't have that perfect soil naturally in their yard. Their accessibility makes them easier to work in and maintain. Plus, they're a nice architectural design element in any landscape.

• What's the ideal size? The main rule of the thumb applies to width. The bed should be no wider than 4 feet, as you never want to compact the soil when working. Length however, is based on personal preference and needs. As far as height is concerned, you want the roots to be able to grow out and down as much as possible -- 6-inches at minimum. While 12-inches is common, anything higher is a bonus.

• What materials work best? Treated lumber is the most

readily available and economical material and will likely last the longest, however, being an organic gardener Lamp'l prefers untreated hardwood, as it lasts almost as long and doesn't contain chemicals. Other materials you have around the home and yard, such as rocks, old tubs, etc., can work too.

• Where's the best location? Build your raised garden bed on level ground, in full sun exposure near a water supply.

DIY Instructions:

To build a 10-foot x 4-foot x 18-inch raised bed, you'll need:

- Nine 6-inch x 6-inch x 12-foot cedar timbers
- Tape measure, t-square and marking pencil
- A saw and extension cord
- One box of 10-inch heavy-duty exterior wood screws
- Ten 24-inch x 1/2-inch rebar stakes
- Twenty 10-inch galvanized timber spikes
- Sledgehammer
- Impact drill and long drill bit
- Level
- Hammer
- Shovels
- Hardware cloth, wire cutters and fence staples
- Work gloves, safety glasses and ear plugs
- Wheelbarrow (to transport soil)

SEE GARDEN BED ON PAGE A5

Ready, set...refresh! Quick tips to revitalize your most-used spaces

STATEPOINT - Have the cold winter months left your home feeling a bit dirty, drab or disorganized? Are you feeling the urge to purge? Then it's time for some spring cleaning. With a few simple tips and tricks, your home—and mood—can be refreshed and revitalized. For the biggest payoff for your efforts, focus spring cleaning in the areas of the home that are used most: the kitchen and bathroom.

Clear kitchen clutter: According to research from the Mayo Clinic, de-cluttering can have a significant positive effect on your mental health and well-being. To start your refresh, toss anything that's expired or no longer being used. Use a wall-mount spice rack to free up shelf space and keep ingredients within easy reach. Add sanity to the silverware drawer by giving all gadgets their own spaces with Spectrum HEXA In-Drawer Organizers. HEXA organizers feature a unique, six-sided honeycomb base design that offers a sturdy foundation while allowing crumbs to fall through its base away from clean utensils. Simply, "lift and sift" to clean drawers.

Labels & liners: Add a new level of organization and personalization to cabinets, drawers and even wire racks with shelf liners. Available in a variety of

colors and patterns, they offer a smooth top and grip bottom for easy sliding of items. Plus, the smooth surface catches messes and spills, making clean-up a breeze. Next, create custom labels for organizer bins with chalkboard or dry erase adhesives from Duck brand. For wire racks, add shelf liner to the bottom to hold items in place.

Get savvy at the sink: Next, move to one of the germiest areas of the kitchen: the sink. To keep this area neat and clean, add an organizer (such as Spectrum HEXA Sink Organizer, which has a built-in soap pump) to keep all cleaning essentials—sponges and brushes—upright and dry and help resist the growth of bacteria. Excess water is captured in the base, which can be easily removed and wiped clean. Finally, place a raised mat in your sink basin to encourage air and water flow for faster drying, and to provide extra cushion for fragile glassware.

Banish bathroom battles: From towels to toiletries, bathrooms collect a lot of "stuff." Keep the daily-use items and purge the rest. If you have limited shower space, use a suction shower basket or shower caddy to hold shampoo and soaps. Add an over-the-tank toilet paper holder to store extra bath tissue and keep it out of the way. Just



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like the kitchen, utilize small baskets or HEXA in-drawer organizers to keep everything from makeup to medicine easily accessible and in the right place.

Conquer clutter cords: Conquer cords and countertop clutter by utilizing vertical spaces. Add shelves to walls to hold towels or smaller items, and add over-the-cabinet accessory baskets to the insides of cabinet doors. These easy-to-install organizers keep items like your

blow dryer, straightener and curling iron out of sight, but within arm's reach, for a faster morning routine.

For more unique organizational products, visit www.spectrumdiversified.com and follow the conversation at #LiveLife-Organized.

Soon, with a bit of cleaning and organization focused in key areas of your home, you'll be feeling refreshed and revitalized this spring.



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HOME GARDEN & CAR

5 tips to get your garage organized – and keep it that way

STATEPOINT - Is your garage in disarray? While you dream of a perfectly organized workbench or garage, your reality probably looks more like a sea of random toys, boxes and exercise equipment.

Every do-it-yourselfer knows a clean, organized garage is the key to efficient project planning and repairs around the home. As we head into warmer months, set aside the time to take charge of the space and finally create a sense of tidiness that will last year-round.

Follow these five tips to tame the mess and get your garage back in shape:

1. Invest in shelving that accommodates clear storage bins. When it comes to organizing and storing the assortment

of cords, car care items, paint supplies and kid's toys littering your garage, nothing does the job better than clear storage bins. Not only can you categorize items by project or activity type, you can also easily stack them to save space without sacrificing the ability to easily find what you need, when you need it. Invest in taller, wider shelving for the perimeter of the garage to accommodate your chosen bins.

2. Fix or dispose of anything broken or past its prime. There's nothing worse than scrambling to find a specific tool or product in an urgent situation, only to realize it's broken, damaged or dried out. As you organize, pay attention to textures, consistencies and expiration dates. Toss

and replace any items that have seen better days. For broken tools that seem salvageable, like cracked hoses or broken handles, reach for a professional grade, heavy-duty duct tape like T-Rex Tape to tackle the repair.

3. Utilize ceiling and wall space with hanging storage. From bicycles and skis to rakes and shovels, some equipment is better off stored up and out of your way. Install hanging racks or shelving above the area where you park your vehicles to store larger, heavier equipment, and use a double-sided mounting tape to attach hooks along the sides of your garage for lighter-weight items.

4. Stock up on the essentials so you can make repairs on the



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Every do-it-yourselfer knows a clean, organized garage is the key to efficient project planning and repairs around the home.

fly. While it's great to have a wide assortment of tools and supplies, for many projects and repairs you really just need the basics – think max-strength waterproof tape, bungee cords, a hammer, nails and similar

essentials. Use these items as the foundation of your garage workstation and stock up on extras to keep on-hand for emergencies, camping and other on-the-go uses.

5. Give everything a home.

Aim to group supplies for similar activities, tasks and repairs together, giving each category a "home." In addition to helping keep things organized in dedicated spaces, hanging frequently used tools and supplies on hooks or pegboard can make it easier to quickly scan the garage and find exactly what you need. Use your mounting tape to safely and securely create a space to store and display all your go-to items.

Interested in more solutions for all your home and DIY needs? Visit www.trextape.com for a wide variety of project and repair ideas.

Whether you're working on your car or tackling a weekend DIY project, having all your tools and supplies in order will make all the difference.

Spring awakening: 5 expert tips to renew your lawn

BPT - As a homeowner, now is the perfect time to start thinking about lawn care again. Spring is your first - and best - opportunity to get your outdoor living space in top shape for the warmer months ahead. And depending on where you live in the U.S., that window begins whenever the soil starts warming. To help you get ready for a healthy, lush green lawn this spring, TruGreen, America's #1 lawn care company, shares five things you should do.

1) Start with a spring clean-up: Spring cleaning isn't just for the inside of your home. Your lawn has collected fallen leaves, sticks and other debris over the winter months. Leaving behind this plant matter can smother the growth of your lawn and leave behind unsightly dead patches on the turf. A clean-up will give your lawn room to breathe, so it can take in water and sunshine, as well as any fertilizer or weed control treatments.

2) Clean up the mower: Spring is also time to dust off the lawn mower, fill it with fresh fuel and get your first mow. The first mowing of the season removes dead blades of grass and encourages the lawn to start waking from its winter slumber.

3) Get a step ahead of weed growth: The return of crabgrass is not something to look forward to, however, the good news is, you can get these and other unsightly weeds under



Courtesy BPT

Nourish your lawn: Spring presents yet another important window of opportunity to achieve a thick, healthy lawn.

control by applying a treatment before they start popping up around your lawn. But keep in mind, it's important to get the timing just right. "Timing is critical when it comes to applying preventative weed treatments," says Brian Feldman, TruGreen's Director of Technical Operations - North. "Treatment should be applied under very specific soil and temperature conditions. Otherwise, it won't work and you'll end up wasting both product and effort." To take the guesswork out of weed control, consulting with a lawn care professional - such as TruGreen - can bring you peace of mind and deliver desired results.

4) Nourish your lawn: Spring presents yet another important window of opportunity to achieve a thick, healthy lawn. After being dormant all winter, it will need a dose of food to help

it spring back to life and start growing. Because by summer, your turf will be facing many stresses - heat, drought, insects and disease. A light application of fertilizer can help your lawn take full advantage of spring growth and have it at its best. Don't forget your trees and shrubs, too! The amount of fertilizer needed varies with the age and where your trees and shrubs are located, so contact a professional for expert treatment.

5) Set a simple watering schedule: Regular rainfall is optimal for healthy grass. But when the sun is beating down and it's been more than a week since the last rainfall, you'll need to supplement the lack of rain with a sprinkler. Luckily, you can keep it simple as most lawns will thrive and grow with one inch of water per week. To keep track, set a few empty

tuna cans around the lawn. When they get full - indicating an inch of water - you can move the sprinkler to a different section. Trees and shrubs also need some watering TLC; keep them hydrated also, particularly when temperatures start to spike.

It's important to remember that every state and region has unique grass and plant types that present their own needs and challenges. Yet, a thick, green lawn you will feel proud of is closer than you think. Call your local lawn professional and they'll create a plan that's tailor-made for your outdoor living space to get it into great shape this spring. TruGreen prides itself on designing a lawn-care experience founded on customer needs and rooted in science. To find a professional in your region, visit TruGreen.com.

4 ways to prepare your home for bug season

STATEPOINT - Spring is the official start to bug season, making it important to prepare your home. Here are four steps you can take you keep bugs at bay:

1. Do a spot check: Check window and door screens for tears to prevent flying bugs from getting in the home and make repairs where necessary. Also, take a quick look around for areas with standing water and try to eliminate them. Standing water creates a breeding ground for mosquitos. Lastly, even the sturdiest garbage bags can't entirely prevent leaks and spills, and over time, your trash bins can begin to accumulate residue inside and around the rim. Bugs, especially flies, love leftovers, so give your garbage cans a thorough rinse.

2. Be ready: Put an effective pest control product in your shopping cart early in the season so you're ready when you see the first sign of bugs in your home. If you see one cockroach, chances are there are more hiding in nooks and crannies. It's hard to put a pin on how many, but an old saying is that for every one you do see, there are 10 more you don't. Striking at the first sign of ants or roaches can help you avoid big problems down the line, as these insects can multiply very quickly. One solid choice is Zevo Instant Action Bug Killer Spray. Zevo's BioSelective Technology targets and shuts down biological pathways found in bugs, not in people or pets. Easy to use, just spray on pests, then wipe up the dead bugs, as well as any excess product. Zevo is now available nationwide at The Home Depot and Target, and

online at zevoinsect.com.

3. Protect your trees: Prepare for the upcoming visit of the 17-year cicadas. In many parts of the country, billions of cicadas will swarm and the females will scrape small twigs to lay their eggs under bark. Protect small and vulnerable trees (ones that are under 4 or 5 feet tall) with cheeesecloth to spare them from attack.

4. Keep an eye on pets. Pets are liable to gobble up large helpings of dead cicadas. While not toxic, too many cicadas could cause some digestive issues for furry friends. Help keep them healthy by watching what they eat!

During the spring season, it is necessary to take steps both to keep bugs out, and to be ready if they do invade.

GARDEN BED

CONTINUED FROM PAGE A4

1. Begin by cutting six, 6 x 6 timbers, each measuring 10-feet 6-inches in length. And six, 6 x 6 timbers, each measuring 4-feet 6-inches in length. Drill rebar holes in each timber.

2. Once the first layer of bed has been placed, leveled and squared in your desired location, fasten the corners using 10-inch wood screws. Secure the entire layer to the ground with 10 pieces of rebar.

3. Place the second layer of timbers, staggering the corners and fastening them with wood screws. Secure this layer to the

first with ten 10-inch galvanized spikes.

4. Install galvanized cloth to prevent burrowing pests from eating earthworms and destroying plants.

5. Place the third layer of timbers (following above directions.)

6. Fill with soil and plants.

For more tips and complete build instructions, check out "How to Build Raised Garden Beds" by visiting Exmark.com/backyard. Exmark's Backyard Life is part of a unique multimedia destination with a focus on helping homeowners make the most of their backyard. There you can also access other series,



Courtesy STATEPOINT

Easy to construct and even easier to maintain, raised garden beds are a great way to raise plants and vegetables in the comfort and convenience of your backyard.

including "Prime Cuts" and "Dream Yards." For an amazing crop this season, take a

cue from the professionals and build a raised garden bed for best results.

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Tankless water heaters poised as top 2021 home improvement trend

BPT - You're likely thinking of improvements from a new perspective after spending more time at home or renovation ideas after recently purchasing a home. Because spaces are being utilized in different ways and utilities are getting used more frequently, you want smart upgrades that make life easier and more convenient. That's why tankless water heaters are gaining popularity: These modern systems make your home more comfortable, save space, lower costs and provide eco-friendly benefits.



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Traditional versus tankless
A cold shower. Washing your hands in a chilly stream from the faucet. Having to wait to do dishes because there's no more hot water. The problem with traditional water heaters is they have a holding tank that heats a specific amount of water. When that water is not being used, it sits there being heated, which wastes energy. On the flip side, when in use,

when the hot water is gone, it's gone. It doesn't matter if you're mid-shower, mid-bath or mid-laundry load.

A tankless water heater solves these problems, making it both a logical and luxurious home improvement. Tankless water heaters are popular in homes throughout Europe, plus

they are commonly used in spas or other facilities in the U.S. due to the benefits of on-demand and endless hot water. They are slowly gaining popularity in U.S. homes as Americans are becoming more energy-conscious and discovering the many efficient advantages over conventional types of water heating.

Top reasons to go tankless

The pandemic has people researching new solutions to their household issues, which is why many are learning about the numerous benefits of tankless water heaters and making the switch. Here are some of the top reasons why this option is trending for 2021:

Efficient and environmentally friendly: Tankless heaters flash-heat water when you need it, and turn off as soon as you turn off the faucet or shower. That means water is heated instantly and heated only when you need it. Tankless heaters are designed to save energy, which saves you money and protects the environment. For example, Thermalux tankless water heaters, on average, help reduce up to 118,000 tons of CO2 emissions a year.

Constant hot water without the waste: With a tankless water heater, you get to enjoy an endless stream of hot water because it's heated through a

compact yet powerful system that mounts on a wall. Once the demand for hot water no longer exists, the tankless water heater automatically shuts down and stops using energy. Choose the right size tankless and you'll always have hot water when your family needs it.

Small size equals significant space savings: Usually about the size of a carry-on luggage bag, tankless water heaters can help you reclaim space compared with large tank-type heaters. These compact systems can be conveniently located in a utility room, garage, attic, basement or closet.

Cleaner water: Traditional tank water heaters can build rust and sediment inside the tank after years of use. This material can end up in the water that you use in your home. Since tankless options do not store water and heat it only on demand, you get fresh, clean water every time without worries of sediment.

Growing accessibility: Getting a tankless water heater is now as easy as going online to Amazon or Home Depot, where Thermalux tankless water heaters are readily available for immediate purchase. Learn more at thermalux.com. Then find an installer and upgrade your system before your old one goes out.

Lower costs: The upfront cost of getting a tankless can be defrayed thanks to possible local, state and federal tax credits. Check out energystar.gov for more information. Once installed, a tankless will help lower your energy bills, helping you to further save money. Finally, tankless water heaters have double the lifespan of their tank-style counterparts, which significantly impacts savings over time.

With new demands on a home's comfort and its systems, a tankless water heater is a smart investment that will pay off for years to come.

Recycling 101: What to know before you throw

BPT - When it comes to recycling, do you know what to throw?

A plastic milk jug is recyclable, but an old plastic toy isn't. The cardboard box from your latest online order can go in your recycling container, but a greasy pizza box shouldn't. Aluminum cans, yes; aluminum foil, no.

It can seem confusing, but that's where Recycling Simplified comes in. Republic Services aims to simplify recycling with easy-to-follow tips for consumers.

Consumers are trying to do the right thing by recycling, but they don't always know what - or how - to recycle. In fact, about one-third of what gets tossed in curbside recycling containers doesn't belong there. That's one out of every three items!

Many items are placed in the recycling bin with the hope that they'll be recycled. This is known as "wish-cycling." But people sometimes confuse "reuse" with "recycle." Examples of this include old clothing and shoes, stuffed animals, tools and plastic toys. All of these items could be reused if donated, but they won't find a new home if you put them in your recycling bin. Take them to a donation box or thrift shop.

So, what does belong in the recycling bin? There are three main categories of recyclables: Paper and cardboard, metal cans including aluminum, and plastic bottles and jugs. With bottles and jugs,

leave the caps on or throw them away - they're too small to recycle by themselves.

Also, recyclables should be empty, clean and dry. Even when an item is recyclable, like a soup can or plastic ketchup bottle, any remaining food or liquid becomes a problem. When those items come into contact with clean recyclables, that leftover chicken noodle soup will saturate otherwise good paper and cardboard. This is known as contamination, and once it happens, perfectly recyclable items become trash and wind up in the landfill - which is what we're all trying to avoid by recycling.

And don't bag your recyclables. The sorting process at a recycling center happens quickly, and most of what is bagged or bundled ends up in the garbage because sorters cannot see the contents. Plastic bags also can get tangled in the machinery, causing delays or even damage.

"Many of us want to be better recyclers, but we aren't sure how or think we don't have the time," said Pete Keller, vice president of recycling and sustainability at Republic Services. "With a few simple steps, we can all do our part to make environmentally responsible choices and help make a positive impact in our community for generations to come."

Make sure you know how and what to recycle with these simple Do's and Don'ts from Republic Services:

DO recycle paper products. Clean, dry, flattened cardboard, newspapers and magazines, office paper and mail are accepted. Break down cardboard boxes before putting in your bin and remove any plastic such as the see-through windows in envelopes.

DO recycle empty soda or food cans. Be sure any remaining food or liquid is removed and the can is rinsed and dry.

DO recycle "Empty, Clean, Dry" plastic. You can leave the tops on bottles and jugs.

DO remember, when in doubt, throw it out. If you're unsure whether an item is recyclable, put it in the trash.

DON'T recycle wet or food-tainted items. A greasy pizza box should go in the trash.

DON'T recycle cans that held hazardous waste. Metal cans that contained paint, oil or any other potentially hazardous waste need special handling. Consult your city or county website for information on hazardous waste disposal.

DON'T recycle yard or food waste. Composting options for tree trimmings and other yard waste may be available in your community, but not via your recycling container.

DON'T bag it. Reuse plastic bags if you can, then return them to grocery stores for commercial processing.

For more quick and easy guidelines to becoming a better recycler, visit RecyclingSimplified.com.

The sun is setting on swiping at the pump

BPT - Among its downfalls, 2020 was a fraud-heavy year. However, there is one type of fraud that can be thwarted in 2021: pay-at-the-pump fraud using cloned payment cards, also known as counterfeit fraud. This happens when cybercriminals skim cards and steal payment card data at fuel pumps or buy them from the dark web, print them onto counterfeit payment cards, and use them at older fuel pumps that do not have an EMV® chip or contactless card reader. And pay-at-the-pump fraud is rampant.

Analysis from Mercator Advisory Group and Transaction Network Services shows that fraud losses on automatic fuel dispensers (AFDs) this year is estimated to be \$17,315 per site. This type of fraud is prevalent because most gas stations still use outdated fuel pumps with point of sale (POS) systems that read the magnetic stripe on the back of a card instead of POS systems that use more secure chip and contactless card readers. It is time for station owners to upgrade their fuel pumps to protect themselves and their customers. Upgrading these fuel pumps has been a long time coming. Awareness about the intent to shift to chip cards for secure payments started in 2011 and the date for fraud liability to shift from financial



Courtesy BPT

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institutions to fuel merchants has been pushed back multiple times since then.

Visa is trying to stop fraudsters from taking advantage of consumers and merchants this way, and is encouraging fuel merchants to upgrade to EMV chip card and contactless readers at the pump - the most efficient way to prevent criminals from successfully using counterfeit payment cards - before the liability shift date of April 17, 2021. "In addition to consumers having an extra layer of protection, these upgrades benefit gas station owners by removing fraud dollars that impact their bottom line," said Julie Creevy Scharff, vice president of consumer products

at Visa. "Based on Visa data, counterfeit fraud dollars decreased 87 percent among chip-enabled non-fuel merchants in the U.S. in March 2020 compared to September 2015, when the liability shift occurred for that community." Visa believes a similar reduction in counterfeit fraud perpetrated at fuel pumps can be experienced by fuel merchants if they embrace chip card and contactless card readers at the pump.

Fortunately, there is still time to upgrade. Merchants should contact their payment or fuel pump provider so consumers can take advantage of a chip card reader with their chip card or use contactless payment when they fuel up.

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Extend the life of your used car with these tips

STATEPOINT - In the market for a car? If you're planning on purchasing a used vehicle, you're in good company. Nearly 70 percent of all car sales are used vehicles, likely due to the rising costs of new cars and the increasing quality of their used counterparts.

While previously owned vehicles make the best financial sense in a lot of cases, experts encourage motorists to keep a few things in mind. "For the safety of everyone sharing the road with you and to protect your purchase, it's important to stay up-to-date on car maintenance," says Doug Turner, director of service operations at Byrider, the nation's largest used car and finance network of dealerships.

April is National Car Care Month and to help you extend the life of your used car, the automotive experts at Byrider are offering the following tips:

- Follow the maintenance recommendations of the manufacturer to keep it running as smoothly as possible. This



Courtesy STATEPOINT

Use only trusted repair services that hire Automotive Service Excellence (ASE)-certified technicians.

includes filling your vehicle with the proper gas, and using the proper oil per the manufacturer's recommendations.

- Prioritize preventive maintenance to avoid issues down the line. Pay special attention to noises or warning signs that could indicate your vehicle needs maintenance. Remember, warning lights on your dashboard are illuminated for a reason. Understand

what they mean and address them as-needed.

- Keep the interior and exterior of your vehicle clean to prevent rust and other issues.
- Use only trusted repair services that hire Automotive Service Excellence (ASE)-certified technicians. This certification can make a big difference when it comes to quality repairs and maintenance.

- Complete as-needed or at a minimum, an annual inspection, on the vehicle. Keep in mind that different seasons of the year require different inspections and repairs.
- Use quality parts.
- When buying a vehicle, stick to retail dealers that put cars through a detailed inspection process to help ensure a given vehicle's safety and reliability. At the same time, consider dealers with an attached service department to help streamline maintenance and repairs. "Your relationship with the dealership shouldn't end once you drive the car off the lot," adds Turner. In the case of Byrider, every car sold comes with a warranty or optional vehicle service agreement, as well as discounted parts, labor and service. To learn more, visit byrider.com.

A used vehicle can be a great investment. Extend the life of your car and stay safer on the roads by making smart purchasing decisions and taking a proactive approach to maintenance.

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SUBMITTED BY BARBARA CARRILLO, CHUMSTICK WILDFIRE STEWARDSHIP COALITION

Part of living in the iconic and scenic Northwest is experiencing fire season, and from time to time in our communities it can turn dangerous. In the last several years, we have experienced some longer and more intense fire seasons. This trend is not going away for the foreseeable future and fires don't wait, so be ready and prepare your "Go Bag" today.

What is a "Go bag", you say?

A Go Bag is an evacuation backpack or laundry bag of essential items you can quickly grab at a moment's notice to help you safely and effectively evacuate your home in case of a natural disaster or a threat of fire. Including essential items such as water, food, and medicine to last a few days is a top priority. Other valuable items such as passports, driver's licenses, your will and or trust, proof of insurance, medical records, social security cards, birth certificates, immunization records, and pet

medical records should also be included. Store these items in a waterproof bag for safekeeping.

Include one gallon of water per person per day, non-perishable food, a first-aid kit, keys, a flashlight, batteries, a few changes of clothing, diapers, pet food, cash, face masks and hand sanitizer.

Other important items to remember are things like a whistle, pocketknife, headlamp, radio, extra phone chargers, matches, a favorite book, deck of cards, toys or games and snacks or candy bars.

Finally, plan an evacuation route and establish a family communication plan with phone numbers of loved ones who live out of state in case local cell towers go down and make sure everyone knows to meet up in the same place.

Natural disasters don't wait, so pack a Go Bag for you and your loved ones today.

Use the handy checklist on this page to get prepared and go to the following website for more information.

During the Fire — CWSC (chumstickcoalition.org)



GET READY!

EMERGENCY SUPPLIES KIT:

Disasters can happen anywhere and at any time. By taking the time to create an emergency supplies kit, your family will be prepared in the event of a disaster. The kit also helps children feel more secure knowing it is there in case of an emergency.

The supplies can be kept in a plastic tub, small suitcase, trash can, backpack or other container. To learn what else you need in an emergency supplies kit, go to www.ready.gov.



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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Water – one gallon per person per day for drinking and sanitation — store 3-day supply <input type="checkbox"/> Ready-to-eat food, canned juices, comfort/stress foods — at least a 3-day supply <input type="checkbox"/> Battery-powered or hand-cranked radio and a NOAA weather radio, and extra batteries for both <input type="checkbox"/> Flashlights and extra batteries <input type="checkbox"/> First aid kit <input type="checkbox"/> Non-prescription drugs such as pain reliever, anti-diarrhea medication, antacid, laxative <input type="checkbox"/> Prescription medications, contact lenses and supplies, denture needs <input type="checkbox"/> Whistle to signal for help <input type="checkbox"/> Infant formula and diapers, if you have an infant <input type="checkbox"/> Water and pet food if you have pets <input type="checkbox"/> Moist towelettes, garbage bags and plastic ties for personal sanitation <input type="checkbox"/> Dust mask or cotton t-shirt to filter the air <input type="checkbox"/> Plastic sheeting and duct tape to shelter-in-place <input type="checkbox"/> Wrench or pliers to turn off utilities <input type="checkbox"/> Can opener for food <input type="checkbox"/> Aluminum foil <input type="checkbox"/> A jacket or coat, hat and gloves | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> A complete change of clothing including long pants, long sleeve shirt, and sturdy shoes stored in a waterproof container. <input type="checkbox"/> Sleeping bag or warm blanket for each person <input type="checkbox"/> Rain gear <input type="checkbox"/> Mess kits, paper cups, plates and plastic utensils <input type="checkbox"/> Cash or traveler's checks, change <input type="checkbox"/> Paper towels <input type="checkbox"/> Tent <input type="checkbox"/> Compass <input type="checkbox"/> Matches in a waterproof container <input type="checkbox"/> Signal flare <input type="checkbox"/> Paper, pencil <input type="checkbox"/> Personal hygiene items <input type="checkbox"/> Soap <input type="checkbox"/> Disinfectant and household chlorine bleach <input type="checkbox"/> Important family documents such as copies of insurance policies, identification and bank account records in a waterproof, portable container. Remember to include emergency contact numbers. <input type="checkbox"/> Passport, bank account numbers, credit card account numbers and companies <input type="checkbox"/> Books, games puzzles, portable music device |
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NOTE: Replace food every six months. Re-think your kit and family needs once a year. Replace batteries and update clothes, etc.

My Personal Pack Checklist

Have children create their personal pack. Have them include things like their favorite book or stuffed animal. These familiar things will help keep them comfortable during an emergency.

- ✓ Change of clothes
- ✓ Blanket
- ✓ Books
- ✓ Favorite toy
- ✓ Paper, pencils and crayons



For more information, visit the National Fire Protection Association at www.nfpa.org/disaster.
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