



HOMESTEAD SURVIVAL SITE



50 MUST-HAVE ITEMS FOR YOUR URBAN HOMESTEAD

There are countless people who dream of having a homestead in the country, but for whatever reason—their job, their finances, their relatives—they've decided to keep living in the city. Because of that, they fear they'll never be a homesteader.

Does that sound like you?

Maybe you won't have a huge homestead in the country (although [I wouldn't give up](#) too easily), but that doesn't mean you can't be a homesteader.

That's right, you can homestead anywhere—*even if all you have is a balcony!*



Homesteading is a state of mind—a lifestyle. And while it's true that how you homestead depends on the amount of land you have, don't let space limitations deflate your desire to live a more sustainable life.

Growing your own groceries and medicines, raising your fish and livestock, and taking care of repairs with the materials at hand—as well as reusing and upcycling—can be accomplished almost anywhere... as long as you have the right supplies.

If you're going to have a successful urban homestead, there are many important items you'll need to get. Below, you'll find our checklist of **50 must-have items for your urban homestead**.

To be clear, *this is not meant to be an exhaustive checklist* of every item you will use on your homestead. Technically, there are hundreds of items you could use.

However, the items on this list are things that will make your homesteading journey **far** easier and much more enjoyable.

Be sure to keep reading after the checklist to see an explanation for each item I chose.



URBAN HOMESTEADING CHECKLIST



GARDENING SUPPLIES

- Seeds
- 5-Gallon Buckets
- Vertical Growing Containers
- Composting Bins
- Leather Work Gloves
- Cold Frames
- Diatomaceous Earth
- Distilled White Vinegar
- Soaker Hoses
- Tomato Cages
- Hoe
- Rake



OFF GRID POWER

- Solar Oven
- Portable Barbeque Grill
- Folding Solar Panel
- Paracord Shoelace Fire Starters
- Smoker
- Solar Lighting



HOUSEHOLD ITEMS

- Soap Making Kit
- Sewing Kit
- Candle Making Kit
- Baking Soda
- Leatherworking Kit
- Pasteurizers



KITCHEN TOOLS

- Canning Supplies
- Dehydrator
- Manual Can Opener
- Cast Iron Cookware
- Bread Machine
- Manual Potato Masher
- Meat Grinder
- Meat Slicer
- Juice Press
- Mortar and Pestle
- Mandolin
- Butter Churn
- Cheese Making Kit
- Fermenting Kit
- Pasta Maker



MANUAL TOOLS

- Fiber Fix
- The Kniper
- Power Drill
- Manual Drill
- Hammer
- Staple Gun
- Pipe Wrench
- Combination Wrench
- Rope
- Measuring Tape

Gardening Supplies

1. Seeds

Packets of heirloom seeds, when stored properly, can last for many years. Stockpile the seed packets during the early fall months when lawn and garden items go on sale. Non-heirloom seeds are even less expensive and can be added to your barter preps.

2. 5-Gallon Buckets

There are countless [uses for 5-gallon buckets](#) on a homestead, no matter how small it is. You can grow plants in them, use one as an off grid toilet, collect rainwater in them, haul livestock feed and water, and use them as a wash tub, to name a few examples.



3. Vertical Growing Containers

You can grow enough food to feed a family of two (or more) in most urban environments by using lots of indoor and outdoor vertical growing containers.

4. Composting Bins

[Composting](#) is very important because it allows you to put the bulk of your kitchen scraps, newspaper, and cardboard to work for you by churning out nutrient rich soil.

5. Leather Work Gloves

These are more durable and germ-resistant than regular gardening gloves.

6. Cold Frames

You can buy or build these gardening containers in nearly any dimensions and use them to start seeds or as a three season greenhouse.



7. Diatomaceous Earth

This natural substance has [many uses](#). It can kill garden pests naturally and it can treat both livestock and domestic pets for worms without the use of chemicals.

8. Distilled White Vinegar

You can use vinegar to kill garden pests, in natural medicines, to make homemade laundry soap, and for cleaning both inside and outside the home.

9. Soaker Hoses

These hoses can be connected to an outdoor spigot or rainwater collection system and used to water crops from the ground up, which is always the best way to provide water to growing plants.

10. Shovel

You will need [this tool](#) for transplanting plants and moving good soil from the compost bin or pile.



11. Tomato Cages or Stakes

Tomatoes will need to be staked as they are growing in order to support the weight of their produce.

12. Hoe

Ridding raised beds of weeds is a constant chore on any type of homestead. A hoe will make that job a lot easier.

13. Rake

This tool will also help turn the soil in raised beds and rid them of weeds.

Off Grid Power

14. Solar Oven

A solar oven is a great thing to have, if you can afford it. Another option is to build your own solar oven using some simple tools. Even if you do purchase a solar oven, build an extra one for back-up or barter.

15. Portable Barbeque Grill

A portable folding barbecue grill is great for any outdoor adventure or emergency situation. Portable folding grills are a lightweight and easy to use.

16. Folding Solar Panel

A 100W folding 12V solar panel recharges electronic devices by harnessing the power of the sun. Most such panels come with a 6-foot extension cord.

17. Paracord Shoelace Fire Starters

These [firestarter shoelaces](#) are made of 550-pound strength paracord and conceal ferro rods inside the end caps. They can be used to get a flame going or for one of the hundreds of other uses for paracord.

Each set typically comes with two striker blades which can be struck against ferro rods (magnesium) to make fire. The built-in ferro rods are protected inside



a waterproof cap.

18. Smoker

Make not just delicious meat but an entire meal in a charcoal or propane smoker - or use it to make jerky and preserve meat.

19. Solar Lighting

Make use of solar flashlights, deck/patio lights, and landscaping light to conserve energy and ensure you won't be in the dark during a long-term power outage.

Household Items

20. Soap Making Kit

It is easy, quick, and fun to make your own soap, especially when using herbs you have grown yourself.

21. Sewing Kit

Buy a sewing machine or at least get a small hand sewing kit so you can learn how to mend your own clothing instead of throwing it away or paying someone else to do it.

22. Candle Making Kit

Create your own emergency candles and learn how to create beautiful ones out of beeswax to give as gifts.



23. Baking Soda

You can use this to clean just about anything, make various types of soap, make remedies for humans and animals, and many other traditional homesteading projects.

24. Leatherworking

Purchase an awl or a complete leatherworking kit so you can repair boots, bags, outerwear, or make your own accessories and pack materials.

25. Pasteurizers

If raising dwarf or pygmy goats on your small homestead, learning how to pasteurize your own milk—unless you want raw milk—will be a necessity.

Kitchen Tools

26. Canning Supplies

One of the integral parts of homesteading is preserving the food you grow. Common canning tools: pressure cooker, jar lifter, Mason jars, lids, rings, magnetic lid lifter, and a stainless steel pot.

27. Dehydrator

A dehydrator—whether it is solar powered or conventionally powered—can preserve meat, fruits, vegetables, and eggs. You can

also use it to make beef jerky or even dehydrate milk so it can be powdered.

28. Manual Can Opener

If the power goes out, or if you're trying to use as little electricity as possible, an electric can opener won't do. Make sure you have a quality hand-powered can opener.

29. Cast Iron Cookware

This old-fashioned and incredibly durable cookware can be used both indoors and outdoors. You can conserve energy by cooking the food on a patio or balcony with a grill and cast iron cookware.



30. Bread Machine

These kitchen machines allow you to make your own breads and doughs instead of buying them from the supermarket.

31. Manual Potato Masher

Mash potatoes without the need for electricity with this inexpensive kitchen tool.

32. Meat Grinder

Whether you're raising your own meat or buying it in bulk, you'll need a tool that allows you to process said meat.

33. Meat Slicer

This kitchen appliance helps with the processing of meat. It can also save you money. Just buy your meat in bulk and slice it yourself instead of buying it already sliced at your local deli.

34. Juice Press

Make your own healthy juice from the fruits and vegetables grown on your urban homestead.

35. Mortar and Pestle

This manual tool is used to crush or grind food material into a paste or dust-like material. It really comes in handy when making natural medicines.



36. Mandolin

This sharp manual tool is used to cut fruits and vegetables into

uniform slices and is particularly useful when canning or dehydrating garden produce.

37. Butter Churn

A tabletop butter churn gives you the ability to make your own butter from milk without taking up a lot of space.

38. Cheese Making Kit

Use your own milk or some that you purchased to make your own delicious cheeses.

39. Fermenting Kit

Learn how to make and preserve food in an off grid manner with these old-fashioned kits.

40. Pasta Maker

Make your own spaghetti noodles instead of purchasing mass-produced pasta for your manicotti, spaghetti, salad, and lasagna.



Manual Tools

41. Fiber Fix

This durable roll of “tape” has as many uses as the almighty duct tape, and it’s even stronger! [FiberFix](#) is made from industrial-strength fibers and a specialized resin that hardens like steel.

42. The Kniper

This multi-function throwing tool is made of 420 high-carbon stainless steel. [The Kniper](#) has 22 built-in functions that include a nail remover, blade, bottle opener, closed wrench, can opener, wire stripper, ruler, pry bar, manual saw, tobacco pipe, and Phillips and flathead screwdrivers.

43. Power Drill

Fixing and building sheds, fences, beds, and a host of other items will likely be on the homesteading chore list during a long-term disaster.

44. Manual Drill

This old-fashioned tool is as durable as it is useful, and you’ll need it if you end up having to live without electricity.

45. Hammer

Building projects and making your own repairs is at the cornerstone of the homesteading lifestyle.



46. Rope

The uses for rope on any homestead are simply too numerous to note in a checklist, but suffice it to say that you will probably be reaching for rope on a weekly basis.

47. Staple Gun

The uses for a traditional staple gun or a hammer staple gun are nearly endless both indoor and out.

48. Pipe Wrench

When plumbing problems arise, this tool will always be reached for to correct them.

49. Combination Wrench

A set of combination wrenches will prepare you to build or fix an issue no matter the dimension of the hardware.

50. Measuring Tape

Purchase a 100-foot measuring tape for use when building as well as planning on how to best use the space you have.

Conclusion

To be clear, you don't need to have all of these items before starting your urban homestead. Start with whatever you have, even if it's almost nothing!

However, gathering all the items on this checklist should be one of your goals. Once you have them all, you'll find that being self-sufficient is a lot easier.

For more information on homesteading and off-grid survival, here are ten of our most popular articles:

- [10 Most Important Homesteading Skills](#)
- [How Poor People Can Buy Land Without Almost No Money](#)
- [27 Foods That Last For Decades](#)
- [45 Homestead Tools For Off Grid Living](#)
- [20 Things We Wish We'd Known Before We Went Off Grid](#)
- [60 Things You Should Stop Buying And Start Making](#)
- [10 Trees Every Homesteader Should Plant \(And Why\)](#)
- [Over 2,000 Survival Uses For Everyday Items](#)
- [25 Powerless Appliances For Your Homestead Kitchen](#)
- [7 Mistakes To Avoid When Harvesting Rainwater](#)
- [25 Ancient Remedies That Used To Be Common Knowledge](#)

Thanks for reading my urban homesteading checklist. I hope you found it helpful.

I wish you all the best on your homestead journey!

- Heidi