

STUPID DISASTER TRICKS

^NOT SO

\$6 Corded Phone



When the electricity goes out, so does your cordless phone. The telephone company has an emergency power system that allows the phonelines to remain operative for many hours after the power goes out. Discount stores sell basic corded phones starting at under \$6. You can also find them at yard sales for as little as \$1.

Plastic Watertight Tote



Make a storm box. Fill it with emergency supplies and documents in ziplocks. Use a permanent marker to write emergency information inside and out. Be sure to add a roll of new sterile untreated/unscented trash bags to fill with water before the storm. A box, a drawer, or even pillow cases can be used to support the water filled bags. In a pinch, the lid can even be used as a large, human powered fan.

Thermos Bottle



You want hot coffee in the morning, but don't want to have to wake up first to make it. Boil water the night before and put it in the Thermos. You can have instant coffee and instant oatmeal for breakfast. Also, you can cook many of the **just add water soups** and **instant rice** in a Thermos. Be sure to get a small rubber spatula to get the last bit of food out. A wider mouth bottle is better for foods, but won't keep liquids hot quite as long. You can also wrap a towel around the bottle to trap the last little bit of heat.

Whistling Kettle



If you're cooking on the propane stove, or the side burner on the grill you'll need to make the fuel last as long as possible. A whistling tea kettle will let you know exactly when the water is boiling, then turn it off and pour the hot water you don't need right away into a thermos bottle so you don't have to start another fire later.

Baby Wipes



Not just for babies anymore. If you are forced to go a few days without air conditioning or a shower, you'll want a few boxes of these.

LED Hands Free Light



Still boarding up after dark? Holding a child? Doing dishes when the power is out? Using the rest room? Having both hands free makes everything much easier.

A **\$25,000 solar oven**? Chances are you drive one already. Okay, more like a solar warmer, but still, car interiors can easily reach 120 degrees or more in Florida and that's under the seats! A few cans on a hot dash can make for a warm meal. Just be **very careful** opening a hot can!



For more disaster preparedness tips, visit:
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