



The First Ten Plays

BUILDING FOR SURVIVAL*

- Before selecting a type of dwelling, evaluate your location. Avoid areas along coastlines, faults, flood zones, high-fire risk areas, and hazardous materials sites when possible.
- Consider the long-term needs for your dwelling. What do you really have to have as a minimum versus all the add on extras that really don't make the space more livable or efficient.
- Consider your lifestyle needs. Can you adjust to something as unique as a tent, a Quonset hut, a cave, or an abandoned missile silo? If you have a family, ensure that the selection meets their needs as well. If your family is going to grow, don't under build just to save. Build with future needs in mind.
- Carefully assess the costs of the land site and then the materials you will need to build with for your selection. Can you really afford what you have chosen, including taxes and maintenance?
- Find out what the building codes are like in the community you choose. Rural areas are traditionally far less strict than urban and suburban, especially for zoning restrictions.
- Find someone who has already lived in the type of dwelling you've chosen. Ask them how well it stood up to the forces of nature and the requirements of maintenance.
- Evaluate how self sufficient and sustainable your lifestyle will be in this dwelling. It may survive disasters, but will you have ample utilities for heating, cooling, water, sewage, and telephone/satellite services?
- This dwelling may be survivable, but where will your income be derived from so you can continue to live there? Is there work nearby, or if you are retired, do you have enough fixed income to sustain your choice?
- When it is time to select or construct your choice, be sure to have others to assist you during the initial phases, from construction to actual establishment, so you have help. Homesteading is dearer when shared, as the Amish will tell you.
- Don't forget to have your new dwelling blessed and then share your knowledge with others because many will be looking for alternatives.

** These are not listed in order of importance but as a group of materials that will increase the possibility of positive outcomes.*