

The Offline Shelf: Starter Shelf Checklist

When the power and the internet are down, your phone's survival app, your saved PDFs, and every how-to video go with them. A printed book still works by candlelight, needs no charger, and can be passed around the room. These are the ten physical reference books we would put on the shelf first: medical care, core skills, water and food, and ways to find your way and stay in touch.

Tick each one as it lands on your shelf. Edition notes are the editions listed in our catalog.

MEDICAL

- ☐ **Where There Is No Doctor** *David Werner, Carol Thuman, Jane Maxwell*
Plain-language village health-care handbook with hundreds of drawings, focused on what one person can do with few supplies.
Catalog edition: Second Edition, 21st revised printing (2025) · 448 pp · ISBN 9780942364156
Also free to print: Free from the publisher (Hesperian HealthWiki; chapter PDFs at hesperian.org)

CORE SURVIVAL & REPAIR SKILLS

- ☐ **SAS Survival Handbook** *John Wiseman*
Broad survival reference for every climate and situation; the most-recommended general survival book.
Catalog edition: 2014 · large reference · 672 pp · ISBN 9780062378071
- ☐ **When All Hell Breaks Loose** *Cody Lundin*
Surviving a disaster at home: water, sanitation, food, and heat, with humor and common sense.
Catalog edition: 2007 · paperback; 9 × 5.9 × 1.2 inches · 480 pp · ISBN 9781423601050
- ☐ **Pocket Ref** *Thomas J. Glover*
A tiny, dense book of tables: conversions, wire gauges, fasteners, first aid, and much more.
Catalog edition: 4th edition (2010) · pocket; large reference · 864 pp · ISBN 9781885071620

WATER, FOOD & GROWING

- ☐ **The Encyclopedia of Country Living** *Carla Emery*
A massive reference on growing, raising, preserving, and cooking food.
Catalog edition: 40th Anniversary Edition (2012) · large reference; paperback · 928 pp · ISBN 9781570618406
- ☐ **Ball Blue Book Guide to Preserving** *Ball Corporation*
The long-running home canning guide, with tested recipes and processing times.
Catalog edition: 38th edition (2024) · paperback · 216 pp · ISBN 9780972753753
- ☐ **Gardening When It Counts** *Steve Solomon*
Growing food on a low budget with few inputs, written with hard times in mind.
Catalog edition: 2006 · ISBN 9781771420358
- ☐ **Edible Wild Plants: A North American Field Guide** *Thomas S. Elias*
Photo field guide to over 200 wild foods across North America, organized by season.
Catalog edition: 2009 · field guide · 286 pp · ISBN 9781402767159

COMMS & NAVIGATION

- ☐ **Be Expert with Map and Compass** *Carina Kjellstrom Elgin, Bjorn Kjellstrom*
The classic orienteering guide to map and compass: a skill that needs no batteries.
Catalog edition: 4th edition (2025) · 288 pp · ISBN 9781394375615
- ☐ **Ham Radio for Dummies** *H. Ward Silver*
A plain introduction to amateur radio: licensing, equipment, and getting on the air.
Catalog edition: 4th Edition (2021) · paperback · 431 pp · ISBN 9781119695608

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☐ A Book for Midwives Free from the publisher (Hesperian HealthWiki, chapter PDFs)	en.hesperian.org/hhg/A_Book_for_Midwives
☐ Are You Ready? An In-depth Guide to Citizen Preparedness FEMA publication, free from Ready.gov	www.ready.gov/sites/default/files/2021-11/are-you-ready-guide.pdf
☐ Camp Life in the Woods and the Tricks of Trapping and Trap Making Public domain, free from Project Gutenberg	www.gutenberg.org/ebooks/17093
☐ Complete Guide to Home Canning USDA guide, free from the National Center for Home Food Preservation	nchfp.uga.edu/resources/category/usda-guide
☐ Emergency War Surgery Free from the U.S. Army Borden Institute	medcoe.army.mil/borden-tb-ews/
☐ Nuclear War Survival Skills Free from the publisher (Oregon Institute of Science and Medicine)	www.oism.org/nwss/
☐ Shelters, Shacks, and Shanties Public domain, free from Project Gutenberg	www.gutenberg.org/ebooks/28255
☐ U.S. Army Survival Manual Current successor ATP 3-50.21 (2018), approved for public release, from the Army Publishing Directorate	armypubs.army.mil/epubs/DR_pubs/DR_a/pdf/web/ARN12086_ATP%203-50x21%20FINAL%20WEB%202.pdf
☐ Where There Is No Dentist Free from the publisher (Hesperian HealthWiki, chapter PDFs)	en.hesperian.org/hhg/Where_There_Is_No_Dentist
☐ Where There Is No Doctor Free from the publisher (Hesperian HealthWiki; chapter PDFs at hesperian.org)	en.hesperian.org/hhg/New_Where_There_Is_No_Doctor
☐ Where Women Have No Doctor Free from the publisher (Hesperian HealthWiki, chapter PDFs)	en.hesperian.org/hhg/Where_Women_Have_No_Doctor
☐ Woodcraft and Camping Public domain, free from Project Gutenberg	www.gutenberg.org/ebooks/34607

My shelf notes (where the books are kept, what to buy next, who has a copy):
