

Supply Chain Survival

with Buck Greene for www.ModernCombatAndSurvival.com

We All Have To Contend With Shortages Now

To paraphrase the head of a major meat processing company, “The supply chain is broken.” The COVID-19 pandemic introduced the entire country to the notion of shortages. This is now a way of life for as long as things aren’t “normal,” and even when they get better, they may never be like they once were. Here are 5 steps you can take to deal with shortages and get what you need in a world now reaping the consequences of its previous supply chain decisions.

1. Watch The News Constantly

As much as the news can drive you absolutely nuts these days, it’s one of your most useful intelligence gathering tools, especially if you watch the news in other countries.

- Surgical masks sold out in the UK before they sold out here. If you were watching, you had time to get these before they were gone everywhere in the United States.
- Don’t neglect local sources. Dust masks sold out of hardware stores locally shortly afterward. I had time to get a pack of N95 masks online before those disappeared, too.
- Today, there were reports of “murder bees” in Washington. It doesn’t hurt to buy some bee spray when you see an alert like that.

2. Build A Cushion, Then Rotate

Build up a stockpile to carry you through when things aren’t available.

- Keep buying the same item when it is available, and rotate your stock out.
- This helps keep your supplies fresh while also preventing you from running out.

3. Network With Your DIRECT Neighbors

Facebook groups, Nextdoor, and other social media apps are useful for this, but of course you have to be careful, because you DON’T want everybody around you to know that you’re equipped.

- Use these apps to alert you to who has surplus, who’s trading, and who’s in need.
- Make anonymous donations when you can to build neighborhood good will. Trade as you can and will, always maintaining operational security (OpSec).

4. Change Your Attitude

Most of us have never had to deal with “going without” before, in any ongoing sense. Yes, we’ve all been broke, and some of us have suffered a lot. But this affects all of us, and suddenly, we can’t get what we want and what our families need.

- You can’t afford to take it personally or let it make you sad.
- Family members may complain, and it might really bother you (especially when it’s your kids). But you’ve got to remember this is not in your control.
- Instead, do what you can, and do your best.

5. Think Weeks And Months Ahead

Supply chain problems mean you should be pre-ordering things you can’t get right away.

- When the items finally arrive, you will be glad you ordered them.
- Play “4D Chess” with your supply chains.

Prepare. Train. Survive.