

Cooking Gear – Homemade and DIY!

Use ONLY tin cans that originally had food in them. No paint cans, please!

1. Cup. An empty clean tin can with the top removed works well. You can also cut a plastic water bottle in half with a knife and sandpaper or melt the edges so the edges won't be sharp.
2. Bowl. A Frisbee works well. So does the plastic tub that butter comes in.
3. Paper plate holder. Individual paper plates are flimsy. Put them in a Frisbee or pie tin and their strength is tremendous.
4. Kitchen preparation bowl. Plastic butter tubs work well, as do large, empty, clean tin cans.
5. Cooking pots. Many foods can be cooked in the cans in which they were purchased. Heat these at a low heat and stir frequently to prevent burning the contents at the bottom of the can. If possible, cook in a larger can. You'll need a pot handle.
6. Pot handle. Make pot handles from clothes hangers, like the bail on a paint pail. Punch holes in the cans with a nail. A pair of pliers can also move pots around – water-pump pliers with the angled head and long handles work best.
7. Soup pot. Use a #10, 1-gallon can over a simmering fire.
8. Frying pan. A steel or aluminum pie tin works well, with water-pump pliers as a handle. Any frying pan made of aluminum foil will burn your food, if you don't damage the pan trying to remove it.
9. Flatware. Your easiest option is to use plastic knives, forks, and spoons. Small quantities may be available from fast food restaurants for free. You'll need metal or wood utensils to prepare hot food.
10. Food storage bags. Some of the best come in cereal boxes. Shake out the cereal crumbs and keep the transparent bags. Seal with rubber bands.
11. Food storage bowls. Plastic butter tubs with lids work well. Generally, plan to eat anything that will spoil without refrigeration, such as meats. Most vegetables can be stored, except for sliced onions.
12. Can opener. This one you won't make yourself. Bring one, or go to an Army Surplus store and buy a P-38 or a P-51. Ask them to show you how to open a tin can with this versatile, tiny tool designed to open C-rations.