



# Prep Tip<sup>of the</sup> Week

## Disaster Kit's on a Budget

**Create a list of essential items.** Consider your family needs. Based on prior experience, list the essentials that fit your needs and budget.

**Spread out your shopping.** Avoid waiting until the last minute. Items have the potential to increase in cost or become unavailable when a hurricane is approaching. Monitor newspapers, online and local stores for sales and collect items as they become available, or at a lower cost.

**Get used and discount items.** Certain emergency supplies such as radios and flashlights don't need to be purchased new. Also consider using items that are durable and require minor servicing to extend usage.

**Choose generic products.** From medicines to everyday items, these are usually less expensive than name brands.

**Buy in bulk.** Make bulk purchases of emergency kit items such as water, non-perishable food, flashlights and batteries. Purchasing these items together with neighbors, friends or coworkers is a wonderful way to save money and get others involved in preparedness.

**Save some cash.** ATM's may be unavailable immediately following a hurricane. Have a money box in a safe place and add a few extra dollars to it every week.

**Give the gift of preparedness.** Consider giving electronics chargers, solar lamps and other emergency kit items to friends and family to help them be more prepared. Ask for preparedness-related gifts for yourself for birthdays or holidays.

**Store water.** Commercially bottled water can be purchased and stored in bulk. Gallon water, two-liter soda and soft drink bottles can be reused for potable water storage. Water that has not been commercially bottled should be replaced every six months.



FEMA