



Living Off Grid Guide

Checklist of steps to get yourself off the grid version 1.0

1. Begin the process of becoming debt free and start saving
 - Review your debts and focus a paying the highest interest debt first
 - Create a budget to help you prioritize spending
 - a. Use $(\text{Income} - \text{Savings}) - \text{fixed expenses} = \text{living expenses}$
 - Curb your spending by being thankful for what you already have
2. Decide how far off the grid you want to go
 - Consider what things you can and cannot live without
 - Think about how close you want to be to the city
 - Decide how healthy you are and what level of work you are willing and able to do
3. Create a plan
 - Have a strong why
 - Use this checklist to help you plan your preferred off grid lifestyle
 - Celebrate the small successes to stay motivated
4. Start a garden
 - Start learning how to grow your own food
 - Start small with just a few kinds of plants
 - Chose a sunny spot in your yard, or container grow
 - Set up your beds in the fall
 - Order your seeds in the fall
 - Plant your seeds indoors in January
 - Transplant into garden after last possible freeze
 - Water regularly
 - Harvest and store
5. Learn to hunt
 - Learn the licensing requirements of your state
 - Buy your gun and practice with it
 - Get your tag(s)
 - Scout the area and learn the animal's habits
 - Get drawn
 - Butcher the animal and process the meat
6. Learn about livestock
 - Visit a local farm
 - Participate in 4H
 - Find a mentor
7. Live cheaply and save up for your ideal lifestyle



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8. Buy your land
 - Decide where you want to live
 - Shop around using realty websites
 - Find a real estate agent to help you
 - Look for a southern exposure and access to water
9. Design and plan your home, power system and waste system
 - Decide if you are going to use a septic tank or compost toilets
 - Decide if you want solar or wind power or a combination
 - Decide if you want to be connected to the electrical grid or be completely independent
 - Consider placement of your home, well, power system, waste disposal, gardens and outbuildings carefully
 - Look at lay of land, water drainage, and sun angles
10. Find your well spot and install it
 - Find someone that can witch or dowse for water
 - Locate the idea well spot
 - Hire a well drilling company to drill or drill it yourself
11. Plant trees
 - Plant your fruit and nut trees
 - Install a watering system
12. Install your waste system
 - Pick a spot for your septic tank or compost pile
 - Hire a contractor to install your tank and leach line(s)
13. Move onto your land and live in a tent or an RV
 - Sell what you don't need and move
 - Buy an RV, Camper, Tent or single wide as a starter home
14. Plan and design a new larger garden
 - Calculate how much grain and starches you need to plant to get through winter and feed your animals
 - Plan your spring crops
 - Plan your summer crops
 - Prepare the garden in the fall
 - Plant your seeds indoors in January
 - Transplant in the spring



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15. Get your chickens
 - Build or buy a chicken coop
 - Purchase your chicks and a heat lamp in the spring
 - Raise them indoors until their fuzz starts to disappear
 - Move them to the coop when it is warm enough
16. Design and build your root cellar
 - Choose a spot based on where your home will be
 - Build it into a hill or underground
 - Make sure it is large enough to store plenty of food
17. Design and build pens for livestock and fence off pastures
 - Cows need at least one acre of grazing land per cow
 - Keep animals away from your gardens, they will trample and eat everything
 - Build a barn if you have harsh winters
18. Purchase your livestock
 - You can buy at auction at fairs
 - You can go to a sell house
 - You can check places like craigslist
19. Design and build a large greenhouse for year around growing
 - Keep in mind the sun angles
 - Think about efficiently angling your glass
 - Insolate north facing walls
 - Use a saw tooth roof for optimum efficiency
 - Consider vertical growing methods
20. Design and build a year round aquaponics system
 - Know how much fish your family wants to eat
 - Size your system based on need
 - Combine it with your year around greenhouse
21. Live cheaply and save up
22. Build your dream home
 - Research energy efficient techniques like large south facing windows
 - Consult a green home engineer
 - Decide on a HVAC system and whether or not geothermal is right for you



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23. Install your power system

- Consult a solar power engineer
- Calculate the size of your battery storage
- Find optimum location
- Face panels south
- Consider changing the angles throughout the year

24. Live happily ever after