PREPAREDNESS/SURVIVAL CLASS
ORGANIZING YOUR PREPPER SUPPLIES & THE COLORS OF PREPPING

Most people are not naturally organized. For many people it is a skill that must be learned. Prepping is an activity that definitely requires some organizational skills or the whole thing can get out of hand very quickly. In fact, preppers in general have been accused of being hoarders.

If there is one thing that drives most people crazy it is knowing that you have a certain item and being unable to find it when you need it. I worked for a building contractor over 25 years ago who was extremely good at his trade but was also very unorganized. He lived by the motto *"time is money"*, which was ironic because there was a number of times where he couldn't find a certain tool in his shed so he would run by Home Depot or the local hardware store and buy another one on his way to the job site. I asked him one time why he was wasting money buying tools that he knew he already had. That's when he used the "time is money" line on me and said, "My time is worth $200-300 an hour and it's cheaper for me to buy a $40 tool than it is to waste $200 or more looking for it for an hour." It made sense to me but with a little organization he could have saved that $40 for something else. The other saying that goes right along with this example is *"if you can't put your hands it in 15 minutes or less, you don't own it."* We are going to discuss organizing your gear by using a color-coding system that makes everything easy to find. The color system shown to the left is the one used by The Urban Prepper on his YouTube channel. He has everything separated into large bins in his garage with the color-coded snap on lids to designate each group. He also has each bin labeled as to its contents. For example, the bin with a red lid on it is labeled "First Aid/Medical" and the bin with a gray lid is labeled "Cookware." You might want to use a bin system like the one shown below, but I didn't want to spend the extra money to get colored lids or bins so I brought the less expensive Sterilite translucent plastic bins from Home Depot. I also did not want people knowing what I have in my bins in the garage, so my bins have no labeling of the contents. They just have a piece of colored tape on each corner. This designates what category each bin belongs in. The system is simple and it works for me. I know what is in each bin just based on what color the tape is on the outside of it. This is my color-coding system that keeps me organized with these tape colors:

RED (CROSS) – First Aid/Medical/Trauma
YELLOW – Firemaking
ORANGE – Commo/Navigation/Signaling
BROWN – Shelter
BLUE – Water Storage/Purification
GREEN – Military Gear/Tactical/Clothing
WHITE – Hygiene/Sanitation
GRAY – Cookware/Utensils
BLACK – Tools