
Utility to Weight Ratio



In choosing what equipment to include in your survival kit, every single item must be evaluated using the measure of *Utility to Weight Ratio*.

This basic method helps you to think about the items that you will carry before you ever need to put them into use. Every item that you include must have multiple uses, while being as lightweight as possible, thus having a degree of high utility and low weight.

Your equipment list should be evaluated in a similar way as the example below:

Utility > Weight	Utility = Weight	Utility < Weight
multi-tool or swiss army knife	fixed or single blade hunting knife	full axe
parachute cord	nylon rope	tow cable
LED mini mag-lite	Scout flashlight	multiple "D cell" flashlight
light-weight poncho	traditional vinyl poncho	raincoat

Every item that you carry must be capable of filling multiple uses or applications, and must be a reasonable weight in order to be practical to carry. If you lay out all of the items that you are collecting in your survival gear, and place them in groupings according to the number of uses that each piece has, that will be a good start.

Once you determine the multiple uses of each piece of equipment, you can begin to evaluate the weight of each item. Items with lower weight, you should consider carrying on you or in a reasonable size waist pack. The heavier items can be carried in your larger survival kit in a daypack or backpack.

The main thing to keep in mind is if something has only one single use and is pretty heavy, it will probably not be very useful in a survival situation.