



**39 WAYS
DUCT TAPE
CAN SAVE
YOUR LIFE**

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Duct tape is one of the most versatile materials ever created and has been used to repair homes, make clothing, and even as a medical supply. There's a popular phrase that goes, *If you can't duct it...* well never mind, but you can use duct tape to fix just about anything and the more imaginative you are, the more practical applications you can come up with to implement this wonder tool.

It was first developed in the 1940s by Johnson and Johnson at the request of the US military as a means to seal and keep moisture out of ammo boxes. Duct tape still stays true to its practical origins but has also developed a cult following for its ability to take on many forms and functions.

Duct tape should be a staple in every home for multipurpose reasons but should also be included in any emergency supply kit, bug out bag, camping, hunting, or fishing gear, or even in your pocket at all times.

Duct tape has been known to get people out of many sticky (no pun intended) situations, so it's more than just something to keep in your junk drawer. It could very well save your life so consider having it on hand at all times, especially in the wilderness or during a survival situation.

The possibilities are endless, but here are 39 examples of how this versatile, adhesive tape can save your life (in no particular order):

CLOTHING

In a pinch, duct tape could be layered and shaped to form a variety of clothing articles including sandals, visors, gloves, and more if absolutely necessary. Clothing is essential in the wilderness; especially footwear, so losing an article or damaging it beyond repair could be life threatening. A simple thong and sole design, or a more heavy-duty clog, could

be easily fashioned to help protect your feet.

BLISTER CARE

Especially when infected, blisters can be debilitating wounds. While you don't want to apply duct tape directly to the exposed blister, using a length to apply a cotton ball or sterile cloth to cover the affected area can help the wound heal and get you back on your feet.

FIX A LEAKY BOAT

If you're out on open water and spring a leak, not much is going to help you plug the hole, though a wad of duct tape may help a little. However, if you find yourself needing to cross a lake or stream and the only thing around is a dinged up 60-year old canoe, enough properly applied duct tape could waterproof the vessel and get you to safety. It's even been known to patch up damaged airplane hulls sufficiently enough to take off, fly, and land.

BINDING A PERP

If you're in a survival situation and come across an attacker, hopefully you have the wit and skills to detain him. Upon doing so, you probably won't have a pair of handcuffs around and maybe won't have zip-ties or strong rope. Duct tape is strong and when applied correctly very difficult to break out of, making it suitable for binding the hands and feet of captured attackers. It can also be used to seal a perp's mouth so they aren't able to call for backup or otherwise give away your position.

HIDE A SECRET KEY

This may not seem lifesaving, but you never know when you will be locked out of your home, safe house, bug out vehicle, or other locked structure that could protect you during a hurricane, virus outbreak, or attack. Simply using a patch of duct tape to hide a spare key in a nondescript place near your point of entry and using it to place a door or wall between you and the danger outside could save your life. And it's also much better than leaving it under a doormat for any burglar to find.

CLOTHESLINE

Getting wet in a survival situation is life-threatening and your immediate priorities should be a fire for warmth and to help dry out your clothes. But your soggy clothing isn't going to dry while still on your back, and it won't do much good on the ground either. A long piece of duct tape can be twisted into a length of rope to act as a clothesline to get your clothes suspended in the air so the wind and rising heat from the fire can dry them quickly.

MARK A TRAIL

If you're lost in the woods, one of the best ways for rescuers to find you is to have an easy trail to follow. While fires, mirrors, and other methods have awarded rescue through land to air signaling, most rescue operations are done on the ground. Leaving patches of duct tape on trees and rocks along your trail could warrant rescue and save your life.

VEHICLE REPAIRS

Many survivalists intend to rely on a bug out vehicle to get them out of harm's way in the event of a disaster. Whether this is your case, or your vehicle just breaks down on a lonely, back road or during a violent, winter storm, you should keep a roll of duct tape in the car. Duct tape can fix a leaky hose, repair a fan belt, or keep a loose window in place to temporarily get you out of a bad spot and at least to the next repair shop or supply cache.

ATTACH A SPLINT

Any injury in the wilderness can be life threatening without proper medical attention, especially broken bones. If you fracture, sprain, or even break an arm or leg, a few sturdy sticks and a roll of duct tape can act as a makeshift splint to keep your limbs in place.

Wrap a joint – Similarly, a rolled ankle or twisted wrist can put you out of commission in a wilderness or survival situation. Sometimes, only time can heal these types of injuries, and the best method is to keep the joints tightly wrapped and alternate heat and ice to reduce swelling and pain. Duct tape can do the trick to keep the joint securely wrapped and occasional dips in a cool stream or propping up by a fire can substitute as conventional heat and ice packs.

PREVENT WINDOW SHATTERING

During a violent storm glass, windows are some of the first victims, which is

why they are among the first things boarded up by home and business owners.

No matter what poses a threat to your windows, applying duct tape in a criss-cross pattern can help to keep windows in place and prevent shattering. If the glass does break, the criss-cross patterned tape will allow for easier removal and prevent dangerous shards from falling.

BANDAGE

Duct tape does contain a sticky adhesive that you wouldn't want to apply directly to an open wound. But whether a small cut or large gash, duct tape combined with some form of gauze, cloth, or wild medicinal herbs can act as a very strong bandaging material. It could also be used to waterproof an already dressed wound in addition to keeping debris and germs from getting in and causing an infection.



FROST BITE PROTECTION

If you've ever been in an extremely cold, windy, and snowy environment like Alaska, you know that when in the wilderness you want every inch of your skin to be covered and protected. Alaskan snowmobilers and other hardcore outdoorsmen have applied duct tape to their faces so that not a single inch of skin is exposed to the harsh elements.

It is an extreme use and could be painful when removed, but having a few hairs and dead skin pulled off is much preferable to your face turning black with frostbite.

MAKE A BELT

In the wilderness, loose and baggy pants will slow you down and get you snagged in branches and rocks. Especially if you are evading a predator or attacker, you want to be as agile and quick on your feet as possible, making a belt an essential clothing accessory. Duct tape can easily be fashioned into a makeshift belt; just string it through your belt loops and stick it to itself to keep your waistline tight yet easy to remove for pit stops.

CREATE A SHELTER

It would take several dozen cases and multiple days of time to make a sheet of duct tape large enough to act as a shelter. But when combined with trash bags, plastic sheeting, branches, and other natural resources, duct tape can act as a binding agent to secure a temporary, working survival shelter.

ROPE/CORDAGE

Paracord is one of the most trusted and versatile survival tools for adventurers of all kinds and hopefully, in addition to duct tape, you have it on hand for a survival situation. But in its absence, or if you lack cordage in general, duct tape can be twisted and weaved into makeshift rope that is actually quite strong and durable for a variety of survival tasks.

FIX A CRACKED BOTTLE OR BLADDER

Water is the most crucial survival element and should be your priority in any emergency situation. If you have a water bottle or hydration bladder in the wilderness you are much better off, but a crack or tear in one of these devices could spell tragedy.

Duct tape is one of the best remedies for a cracked container, just make sure the area is dry before applying and make sure your wrap is tight and free of air pockets.

INSULATION

Whether your boots or shoes are ventilated, cracked, or you're just in extremely cold conditions, duct tape can help to insulate your boots (and gloves) to provide extra warmth and water-resistance. Just wrap the insoles with the tape shiny side up so the warmth from your feet will be redirected back into your boots.

MAKE A SLING

An arm injury can be deadly in a survival situation, and not keeping it elevated can make a bad situation worse. You can easily make a sling out of duct tape by fashioning it into rope, or simply folding a strip down the middle so it sticks to

itself making a 2-ply strip that you can sling around your neck and arm.

Keeping an injury elevated helps to reduce blood flow, pain, and swelling so a sling can significantly increase your chances of pulling through and remaining mobile.

SPLINTER REMOVAL

It may seem farfetched, but a splinter could turn into a nasty infection and seriously hinder your chances of survival. If you have a superficial surface splinter, applying a piece of tape then removing it in a quick motion should pull the splinter out. For one that's deeper and harder to see, just leave the tape on for a little longer and remove slowly so the adhesive gently lifts the splinter out of place.

FIX A POLE

In a survival situation, your tent may be your only shelter and your fishing rod may be your only method for catching food. Unfortunately, these things can break and you probably don't have a spare. Duct tape can help to splint a broken or cracked tent or fishing pole; or you can tape an equal sized stick to the

broken end and hope that it will hold enough to get you through the night.

MAKE A SPEAR

A quality knife should be the first piece in any survivalist or outdoorsman's kit. But if you're in an area of predatory beasts, you're certainly not going to want to fight hand to claw with just a knife. A spear will serve to put distance between you and any threat, give better thrusting leverage, or throw at your prey. Duct tape can be used to affix your knife or a sharp rock or other tool to the end of a pole to form a functioning survival and hunting weapon.

SUNGLASSES

Sunglasses or goggles are a crucial piece of equipment in extreme environments, especially in open, snow-covered landscapes where the sun and ground glare form a visually inhibiting double threat. You can fashion a pair of sun goggles out of duct tape by folding a few pieces into a shape to cover your eyes and cutting a small slit in each just enough to see.

These makeshift glasses could save your life by making it much easier for you to navigate out of hostile environment.



PREVENT TICKS

Ticks are found around the world and their bites can cause infections and spread deadly diseases like Lyme disease. To help protect yourself from ticks, you can wrap duct tape around your pant and shirt cuffs to make a tight seal that prevents ticks from getting to your skin. It's not foolproof, but this method could stop these silent killers from taking you out.

WATERPROOF CLOTHING

If you're lucky, you've got some rain gear with you when faced with a disaster or survival situation, but even that can lose its water-resistance and suffer from tears and holes. Duct tape is a very water resistant material that could serve to beef up your rain gear or help waterproof whatever clothing you have at your disposal.

MAKE A HARNESS

In a survival situation, you may find yourself having to either climb or repel an unavoidable obstacle in order to get to safety. Sometimes, a length of rope isn't enough and your inexperience or the terrain could dictate needing a harness to keep you safer during your ascent/descent.

Just like you can make a rope out of duct tape, you can also craft your own safety harness with webbing around your waist and legs to leave you more secure for the climb.

ARROW FLETCHING

A few small tears of duct tape can be folded onto the end of an arrow to give it aerodynamic fletching. While not perfect, the duct tape is flat and flexible enough, and can be trimmed with a knife, to stabilize the flight of a survival arrow. Now let's just hope you have the bow to go along with it to give you a chance at hunting game and keeping you sustained in the wild.

FLOATING COMPASS

If you can't distinguish north and south in a survival situation, your chances of rescue or escape are very slim. For this device, in addition to duct tape you will need some kind of needle, a way to magnetize it, and a small piece of lightweight material like cord or balsam wood.

The duct tape is formed into a small Petri dish-like vessel that will float in a pool of water and allow the magnetized needle to spin around until a north-south line is determined. Once you have your direction figured out, you can hash out a much sounder plan to find rescue.

STRETCHER

If a sling, wrap, or bandage made from duct tape doesn't get the job done, you or a member of your party may need to be physically carried to rescue. If an injury is so severe that the injured person has become incapacitated, duct tape can help to make a viable stretcher so hoist and carry the victim. All you need to do is lash or web strips of duct tape between two long, sturdy branches.

FIND LOST OBJECTS

Maybe you've dropped your only knife, cell phone, or last bullet into an unreachable crevasse. If it's something you can't live without, duct tape can come to the rescue and recover it for you. Attach a wad of duct tape to the end of a yardstick, pole, or branch so the sticky side faces out and fish around for your lost objects using the adhesive to pull them out of hiding.

MAKE A WEAPON

This will probably be a last resort for self-defense, but duct tape can be fashioned into a formidable Billy club. Just like newspaper or a magazine, if duct tape is layered, twisted, and folded in a certain way it can be turned into a rock-hard blunt object that can be used as a weapon.

HOME SECURITY

Enough duct tape applied to window and door seams could probably prevent a person from lifting or pushing it open. If you're feeling ambitious, you could go beyond the criss-cross window pattern and completely cover your home's windows with a protective layer of duct tape to prevent shattering or breakage from wind, rocks, or flying debris.

But if you want a simple home security method to detect whether or not intruders were/are present, strips of duct tape can be put along door seams; if they're ripped then chances are someone has been prowling.

PATCH A TENT OR SLEEPING BAG

Again, a tent may be your only shelter in the wilderness and a single tear could compromise the structure's integrity and your protection. The same is true with a sleeping bag, which is good for nothing without its insulated contents. If either should suffer a hole or rip, duct tape can be used to patch it up and help to keep you warm, dry, and protected from the elements.

INSECT/RODENT TRAP

Insects and rodents may not seem life threatening, but they can carry diseases, venomous bites, and destroy the foundations of homes and buildings. Duct tape is one of the simplest pest removal objects you can use; simply lay a piece sticky side up on the floor, shelf, or wall trimming, place a bait in the center (optional), and wait for your victims to get stuck. Catching and eliminating pests like mice and termites could save your home, which in turn can save your life.

Water cup/bowl – As a last resort, duct tape could be used in a survival scenario to collect and drink water. It will take some time and you will need to be meticulous so as to avoid any leaks, but a proper series of sticking and folding can result in a cup/bowl-like shape that you can drink or eat from.

LEAVE A NOTE

Just like marking a trail, you can use a piece of duct tape to leave a note to tip of rescuers, organize a rendezvous with your survival party, or even warn others about a dangerous area. Many

survivalists and outdoorsmen carry a length of duct tape wrapped around a permanent marker so you have makeshift stationary on hand at all times.

SNOWSHOES

Winter survival situations are among the most difficult to face, and deep snow makes escape and rescue even harder. You can get creative and use a few flexible saplings and some duct tape webbing to craft a simple but effective snowshoe to spread out your surface area and allow you to tackle the deep terrain.

Seal anything – Duct tape's intended purpose was to seal and waterproof ammo cases during WWII. It can still be used for the same purpose today, among a variety of other needs. There are few tapes stronger and stickier than duct

tape, making it perfect for wrapping up various boxes and containers and providing an extra layer of protection and resistance from the elements.

IN SPACE

Believe it or not, duct tape is carried aboard NASA's space missions and has been used on a number of occasions. Dating back to the 1970s, astronauts have used duct tape to retrofit different machinery, fix safety equipment, and as the preferred method to restrain a potentially suicidal member of a space program.

If NASA deems it a multipurpose, lifesaving tool while floating in space, you should definitely consider its real world practicalities on Earth's surface.



The uses of duct tape are only limited by one's imagination and creativity. Chances are, you've already come up with 39 uses for duct tape in your own life without even thinking about it.

Duct tape is a great survival tool and should be readily accessible in every home, vehicle, campsite, or gear bag. Instead of carrying an entire roll, you can wrap a shorter length around a water bottle, old credit card, or cardboard spindle so you can cut down on the weight but always have some on hand. Duct tape can save your life, so plan accordingly and make it part of your emergency supply kit today.

God bless,

Matt Stevens