

NOMAD RESOURCE GUIDE OF TOOLS TO GET STARTED

When we decided to go Nomad, there was no instruction manual or blueprint to follow. So we had to create our own plans. In doing so, we had to rely on our family's ability to develop solutions and on some pretty indispensable tools. The following is a compilation of the tools that we deem as absolute necessities when preparing to follow in our footsteps and you decide to go Nomad.

Facebook & Craigslist

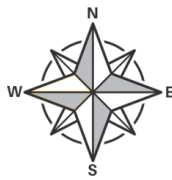


When we decided to eliminate an entire house full of stuff, we had to separate things into 3 categories. 1) What we needed on the road. 2) What we wanted to keep in storage. 3) Everything else. Our "Everything else" category encompassed a lot of stuff. We had a 4700 square foot home full of stuff. We found that using the Facebook Online Yard Sale and Garage Sale groups, in our area, worked the best. They were quick. It requires a lot of monitoring throughout the day. But they work. They seemed to work really well for decorations, furniture and kitchen related items. We had better success with Craigslist for electronic items. We sold everything we wanted to sell in less than 90 days using Facebook and Craigslist.

Storage Unit



We are a family of 5 and we have irreplaceable items of high sentimental value. We did not want to carry them on the road with us. So, we decided to place them in storage. We chose a storage company that delivered a portable storage container to us. This way we could fill it at our leisure in our own driveway. We arranged for it to be delivered to an indoor, climate controlled building so our items would not be subject to extreme cold or heat. Additionally, should we ever decide to buy a homebase to keep our items in, we can have the whole container delivered to us.



Enclosed Cargo Trailer



We ran the financials and decided that it was both more cost effective and gave us more flexibility for us to own rather than rent a cargo trailer. We found that there are a few companies that offer reasonably priced trailers that have a warranty and decently constructed. Some will even give you low or zero interest financing. We found that a 5 foot by 8 foot enclosed trailer with a rounded front did the job for our family of 5. In order to determine the proper size for you, calculate the quantity of containers you will bring (see 12 Gallon Plastic Containers below).

Removable Towing Hitch

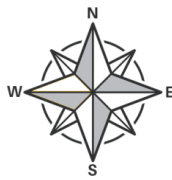


It is possible to bolt a permanent hitch to your vehicle. But, during the times you are not towing, it has no other utility for you and it sticks out a little further on the back of your vehicle which can cause you to back into things with it. Most vehicles from the 2000s onward; have what is called a receiver. It is a small, metal square hole mounted under your bumper in the rear. You can go online or to an auto parts store and purchase a removable towing hitch that will fit in this receiver that will allow you to take it off at your destination while you are not towing. Make sure the ball and the drop match your trailer.

Trailer Securing System



This can cover a wide range of items from a chain and padlock to a wheel boot and alarm system. We compiled our own system for security that has worked for us when we park at hotels while traveling or at our destination, with or without a garage. We take this seriously as it represents security of all of our



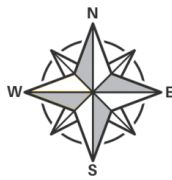
remaining belongings and supplies. The items we have are a keyed trailer hitch pin, a hitch ball lock, a hitch lever lock, a twisted metal braided cable and all-weather hexagonal padlocks.

- **Towing Receiver Lock** – This is what holds your removable towing hitch to your car. We have one with a keyed lock on it. If not, any thief could just pull the pin, wheel your trailer (still attached to the removable hitch and place the whole system in the receiver of their vehicle then drive off with your belongings.
- **Trailer Coupler Lock** – When your trailer is detached from your vehicle, such as at your destination, this unit is placed in the trailer hitch where the towing ball goes. It prevents someone from driving up and hooking their vehicle up to your trailer.
- **Hitch Lever Lock** – In order to release a trailer hitch from the towing ball, you have to lift a lever. This is a specially designed padlock that does not allow you to lift the lever and detach the trailer from your vehicle. If you have it detached, it is an added measure of security in conjunction with your Hitch Ball Lock.
- **Twisted Metal Braided Cable** – We bought one with a coating over it to prevent it from rusting and it had loops at each end. This cable is handy when you stop at night at a hotel and when you reach your destination. When you stop for the evening, you run this cable through a loop or opening in your vehicle frame and then wrap it around the tongue of your trailer. If you pull the cable tight, this will hinder a thief from trying to drive away with your vehicle and trailer as the trailer cannot turn. It also acts as a deterrent along with your Keyed Trailer Hitch Pin and Hitch Lever Lock. When you are at your destination, if you do not have a garage, you can use this cable to secure your trailer to a tree or other immovable object.
- **All-Weather Hexagonal Padlocks** – You will need to lock your trailer door and you will need to be able to secure your twisted metal braided cable. Since these will be used outside, you need the all-weather option. And, when the loop part of the padlock is hexagonal, it makes it more difficult for bolt cutters to cut through.

Trailer Maintenance Kit



When we purchased our trailer, we were told that the number one cause of trailers prematurely having problems is lack of maintenance. Unbeknownst to me, trailers need light maintenance every day they are on the road. Proper maintenance will increase the longevity of your trailer and is safer for you and your journey. We do our maintenance the day before we leave so that we can just get in the vehicle and take off first thing without any delays. And, if you need to give more attention to something, it does not affect your traveling timetable. We compiled our own maintenance kit as well. It included a tire gauge,



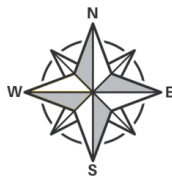
grease gun with flexible hose, flathead screwdriver, standard hammer, rubber mallet and a telescopic lug wrench with interchangeable sockets.

- Tire Gauge – You must keep the tires properly inflated for safety and better gas mileage. Most trailer tires are supposed to be measured cold. This means to take a reading before you hit the road.
- Grease Gun With Flexible Hose – Your trailer’s axle needs to be greased about every 500 to 700 miles. Not greasing a trailer’s axle regularly is the number one cause for premature failure. We have a grease gun with a flexible hose because you never know the spot you will be in when you need to apply grease and the flexible hose helps with positioning.
- Flathead Screwdriver – In order to grease your trailer’s axle, you will need to remove the axle cap on the end. This is true on most cargo trailers like ours. We found that a flathead screwdriver was the best tool to get under the axle cap to be able to lift it off.
- Standard Hammer – In order to remove the axle cap, you will need to lightly tap the screwdriver to get it between the axle cap and the axle shaft. A standard hammer (metal head and wooden handle) works fine for this.
- Rubber Mallet – You have to tap the axle cap back on after greasing the axle. We chose a rubber mallet to tap it back on so that we would not dent the axle cap, like you may do with the standard hammer.
- Telescopic Lug Wrench – You can use any lug wrench. Many people have the 4 way lug wrench that looks like a plus symbol. We chose the telescopic kind so that it can adjust to the room we have when using it and collapsing down to save space when not using it. Ours has 2 interchangeable sockets to go on the end. The sockets are 2 sided so we can accommodate 4 total lug sizes. The tires need to be tightened before each journey. Do so in a star or every other lug pattern. If your tire flies off while traveling, you will not be a happy camper.

Spare Trailer Tire and Jack



Many smaller cargo trailers do not come with a spare tire or jack as a standard feature. Your car spare tire won’t fit and your car’s jack is not designed for trailers. If you have a local tire place that treats you well, you can likely save a few bucks by going to them for the spare. If not, most trailer manufacturers will sell you a spare tire. Make sure you get the right size for your trailer. We chose a bottle jack as our jack of choice. It is small in size and it has more than enough strength to lift a fully loaded trailer.



12 Gallon Plastic Containers



This is where we placed all of our supplies and stuff we carried on the road. We allowed 4 containers per person for clothes and personal effects. We assigned a certain number of containers for electronics, kitchen, bathroom, garage, outdoors, education, office and miscellaneous. Our container count came to 42 containers. All of our possessions now fit into 42 plastic containers. Determining the container count will help you determine your trailer size. Make sure you get heavier duty plastic containers so you can stack them on top of each other without crushing them. Make sure they are all the same kind from the same company so they uniformly stack easily. Also, put the heaviest containers on the bottom at the front of the trailer. The next heaviest will go behind them on the bottom level and so forth. Then stack from heaviest to lightest. This works best for weight distribution and helps to prevent your containers from moving as much.

HomeAway



This is a necessary service for us. We went through a lot of research when looking for a way to find dwellings for us to stay in as temporary homebases. Most services did not cater to what we were specifically looking for. We wanted a good inventory of places to stay on a national scale, allowed us to pay via credit card (have to earn that cash back reward), had a solid reputation and ensured that we were protected; meaning, when we paid in advance for a place that we would actually have a place to stay in. HomeAway solved all of these issues. It is a company that has a good reputation. Their inventory is large and is fed by some of their subsidiary companies. We can pay by credit card and we are protected. If we pay for a place in advance, get there and we have no place to stay, HomeAway returns our monies. It is an inconvenience if that happens. But, at least we are not defrauded of our funds. Additionally, so far, we have had very, very good property owners that have bent over backwards to make our stay a great one. After all, the better the feedback, the more attractive the property is.

That is our Nomad Resource Guide Of Tools To Get Started. It included all of the essential and necessary tools that we actually used in preparing to Live Nomad Style. And we still use most of them while we travel. It takes one set of tools to get started and an additional set of tools are added while you are actually on the road. Prepare well. Plan ahead. And enjoy the adventure.

Safe Travels – The Nomads at LivingNomadStyle.com