

Skills Are Everything

You see, even if you have a variety of store-bought weapons at your disposal, there is no guarantee that you will keep these in your possession. They can break, become lost, or get stolen from you. After all, nothing is guaranteed in this world, even if you have prepared adequately.

Should you find yourself without weapons, knowing how to make homemade weapons from basic items you have on hand is an invaluable skill. Plus, it's just plain fun to make good home defense weapons. With that in mind, here are 12 of the best homemade weapons you can make yourself.

1. PEPPER SPRAY

Pepper spray is one of the most basic homemade weapons, but it's very useful. It's easy to carry on your person, easy to conceal, and effective at disabling an opponent. It is also easy to make your own homemade pepper spray.

Materials:

- Spray bottle
- Water
- Extremely hot dried chili peppers
- Black pepper

Directions:

- Pour a handful of chili peppers into a bowl.
- Grind the chili peppers to expose the seeds.
- Add water and black pepper to the chili peppers.
- Stir the mixture.
- Heat mixture to a boil on a stove top, in a microwave, or over a fire.
- Let the mixture cool and transfer to a clean spray bottle.

2. Slingshot

Slingshots are handy to have in a pinch and it's one of the easiest homemade weapons to make. Your ammo is literally lying on the ground all around you. You can use things like stones, pieces of broken glass, or pieces of broken building. Anything that will fit into the pouch of the slingshot is fair game.

Fortunately, making your own slingshot is easy. The first thing you will need to do is find a strong fork of wood, ideally hickory, dogwood, or oak. The fork should be a minimum of 30 degrees, and it should be well dried. Other materials you will need include:

- ¼-inch latex surgical tubing

- Leather strips

- Fine string, such as dental floss

- Saw

- Knife

Directions:

Notch each prong of the fork with your knife. You want the notches to be deep enough to keep the bands in place, but not so deep that the force of pulling the bands will break the prongs.

Wrap one end of the rubber tubing to the end of each prong until it doubles up on itself. Secure the tubing with a zip tie or wire.

Cut a 2-inch by 4-inch piece of leather and poke a hole in each end of it.

Put the loose ends of the tubing through the holes in the leather and tie them off.

Remember that you might have to adjust the length of the pieces of tubing, depending on how long your arms are and how much power you want.

4. Bullwhip

Okay, you might not be Indiana Jones, but that doesn't mean a bullwhip won't still be useful. And it is so easy to make, with only two materials required:

550 paracord (250 to 300 feet)

5 ½ feet of ¾-inch nylon cord

¾-inch steel rod (10 inches long)

Strong electrical tape

Lighter

File of sanding wheel

Tape measure

BBs

A vice

Directions:

Hollow out the nylon cord.

File the ends of the steel rod, and insert it into the end of the nylon cord and secure it with electrical tape. This will be the handle.

Fold the nylon cord in half, not including the length of cord containing the steel rod, and mark the halfway point with electrical tape.

Open the non-handle end of the nylon cord and put BBs into it, filling it to the center mark.

Tie a knot in the nylon cord where the BBs end to keep them in place. Make sure there are no spaces between the BBs.

Remove the tape from the cord.

Cut a 2-foot length of paracord and take out the core of it. Use one of the core strands to tightly bind the cord where the BBs end so they will stay in place.

Bind the handle of the whip with electrical tape.

Cut two 10-foot lengths of paracord and pull the core out of each.

Weave the paracord around the whip handle and whip. This is a multistage process that is shown in this video.

5. Kubaton

A kubaton is a small Japanese weapon, like a short stick, that fits easily in the hand. It is used to strike the pressure points of the body to cause pain. This is one of the homemade melee weapons that is easy to carry with you and conceal. In fact, it can be used as a keychain, meaning you'll have it with you all the time.

You can fashion kubatons out of wood or metal, but you can also make one easily using a long screw and paracord.

Materials:

3- to 4-inch screw (or whatever length will fit into your hand with the ends sticking out about half an inch)

Electrical or duct tape

Paracord

Lighter

Directions:

Use the electrical or duct tape to cover the head of the screw and wrap the shaft. This will prevent any metal from sticking out of the paracord wrap later on. It will also prevent the paracord from fraying due to rubbing on the threads of the screw.

Weave your paracord in a box weave that will leave it hollow on the inside. Below is a video that shows you how to do it.

Once you have an inch of the box weave done, place the end of the screw into it, then keep weaving.

Tie off the ends of the paracord and melt them in place with a lighter. You can melt down both ends to make them harder for striking a combatant.

6. Knife

Knives can be made from many different kinds of materials, and they are one of the easiest homemade weapons to make. You will want something strong, with a solid handle.

Obviously, you can make a fully functional, proper knife with a wooden handle and a good blade. However, you also need to know how to make what you have into a knife with ease.

To make a knife, you can forge metal (even a wrench will do) into a knife handle and blade. Fortunately, you can do something simple, like take an old saw blade and make it into a knife or shape a butter knife into something sharper and more lethal.

You will have to know how to work with whatever you have at hand. Here is how to make a knife out of a butter knife that is strong and functional.

Materials:

Butter knife

Drill (optional)

Paracord or other type of cordage

Marker (optional)

File

Directions:

If you want, you can drill a hole in each end of the knife handle to make attaching the paracord easier.

Wrap the handle in the cord. If it's nylon, then make sure it's wet when you wrap it. If it's a natural, cellulous fiber, wrap it dry. Leave a tail halfway down the handle as you start wrapping and wrap over the tail.

Finish wrapping and tie it off. You can add a loop in the handle if you want.

At this point, you can cut the blade down if you want. Use the marker to mark where you want to cut it, and score the blade at that spot. You can then snap off the end. Otherwise, work with the knife blade as is.

File the blade and sharpen it so it has a sharp edge and point. You can do this with a file or whetstone, or use a stone you find outside. Even the curb outside your home would work in a pinch.

7. Throwing Stars

Throwing stars are easy to make and can be very useful when you need a weapon you can easily carry and use from a distance. In fact, throwing stars can be made from any scrap metal you find lying around. And in an emergency or apocalyptic situation, scrap metal is bound to be everywhere.

In a pinch, you can take small pieces of scrap metal you find and bend them into throwing star shapes. If you have the tools required, you can make more refined throwing stars. Here's how.

Materials:

Paper

Hardened steel (This can be an old shovel or saw blade or anything else you have on hand.)

Hole puncher and hammer

Spray paint

Drill

Metal saw

Sandpaper

Directions:

Draw a star pattern on paper and cut it out.

Place the pattern on the metal.

Use the hole punch and hammer to mark where to drill any holes you want.

Use the spray paint over the pattern to leave its outline on the metal.

Cut the shape out of the metal.

Drill the holes.

Grind or file the edges of the star points to finish them nicely. You can dunk it in cold water every once in a while to cool it down.

Sand the piece if necessary.

Use a knife grinder or whetstone to sharpen the edges.

8. Spiked Bat

If you need homemade weapons for the zombie apocalypse, what better one to have than a spiked bat. So easy to make and so very effective against not only zombies, but dangerous people and animals. And since so many people are familiar with *The Walking Dead*, just the sight of this weapon is guaranteed to strike fear into people, even if you use nails in it, instead of simply wrapping it in barbed wire.

Materials:

Wooden baseball bat or other strong length of wood

At least three dozen 6-inch nails

A drill

A hammer

A vice

Directions:

Secure the bat and drill a series of holes at the non-handle end of the bat. Drill these holes through the center of the bat so they go through from one side to the other. Drill the holes in lines – the more holes, the more spikes you'll have.

With the bat in a vice, hammer the nails into the holes so the head of the nail is flush with the surface of the bat. The ends of the nails should be long enough to stick out the other side of the bat.

9. Taser/Stun Gun

Stun guns or tasers are great homemade melee weapons. This weapon is not out of your league when it comes to what you can make at home.

Materials:

Continuous piezo electric sparker (with batteries) – This is what you use to light barbecues, so they are easy to find.

2 AAA batteries with holder

Thick and normal electrical wire

Dremel

Pliers

Soldering iron

Hot glue gun

Cutter

Screwdriver

Directions:

Take the lighter apart, take out the lighting mechanism, and set the casing and screws aside for later.

Remove all the inner wiring, including cutting out the wires from the base of the metal neck.

Place 2 thick pieces of electrical wire to the contacts where you just cut out the wires. These wires should be longer than the metal neck.

Ensure the battery holder is attached to the battery wire.

Put everything back into the lighter casing. Where things don't fit well, use the Dremel to polish the plastic.

Cut the ends of the thick wire near the base, strip the ends, and tin the ends.

Cut two pieces of normal wire, 2.5 cm each. Tin the ends and connect them to the thick wire.

Glue the wires in place.

Test the system.

Close the casing.