Skills Inventory for Living Off-Grid: A Beginner's Checklist for a Big Picture Overview

Directions: Make an inventory of the skills you have, ones you need to learn, and those things for which you'll have to hire out. I've left spaces for you to add your own ideas. The hire out column doesn't fit for every skill.

Skill Category and Specific Skill or Knowledge	Good	Need to learn or research	Hire out
Basic Survival Skills			
Identifying and sourcing safe drinking water	☐	☐	☐
Purifying water using methods like boiling or filtering	☐	☐	☐
Building a fire safely and efficiently	☐	☐	☐
Basic first aid and emergency medical knowledge	☐	☐	☐
Navigating with a map, compass, or GPS	☐	☐	☐
Recognizing edible wild plants and foraging	☐	☐	☐
	☐	☐	☐
	☐	☐	☐
	☐	☐	☐
Shelter and Housing Skills			
Understanding building codes and regulations	☐	☐	☐
Constructing or maintaining a shelter-tiny home, cabin, yurt, etc.	☐	☐	☐
Basic carpentry skills (measuring, sawing, nailing, etc.)	☐	☐	☐
Installing and maintaining insulation	☐	☐	☐
Roofing and weatherproofing techniques	☐	☐	☐
Basic plumbing knowledge for off-grid systems	☐	☐	☐
	☐	☐	☐
Energy and Power Skills			
Installing and maintaining solar panels	☐	☐	☐
Setting up and managing a wind turbine system	☐	☐	☐
Understanding battery storage systems	☐	☐	☐
Operating a generator	☐	☐	☐
Managing and conserving energy usage	☐	☐	☐
	☐	☐	☐
	☐	☐	☐
	☐	☐	☐
Sustainability and Environmental Skills			
Minimizing waste and practicing zero-waste living	☐	☐	☐
Recycling and repurposing materials	☐	☐	☐
Designing and implementing permaculture systems	☐	☐	☐
	☐	☐	☐
	☐	☐	☐

Skill Category and Specific Skill or Knowledge	Good	Need to learn or research	Hire out
Water Management and Heating & Cooling Skills			
Collecting and storing rainwater	☐	☐	☐
Installing and maintaining a water pump or well system	☐	☐	☐
Designing a greywater system for recycling waste water	☐	☐	☐
Operating a wood-burning stove	☐	☐	☐
Chopping, seasoning, and storing firewood	☐	☐	☐
Building and maintaining a solar water heater	☐	☐	☐
Implementing passive heating and cooling techniques	☐	☐	☐
	☐	☐	☐
	☐	☐	☐
Maintenance and Repair Skills			
Using hand and power tools safely and effectively	☐	☐	☐
Performing basic vehicle maintenance-oil changes, tire repairs	☐	☐	☐
Repairing plumbing leaks or clogs	☐	☐	☐
Troubleshooting and fixing electrical systems	☐	☐	☐
Maintaining and sharpening tools	☐	☐	☐
	☐	☐	☐
	☐	☐	☐
Emergency Preparedness and Communication & Navigation Skills			
Creating and maintaining a survival kit	☐	☐	☐
Developing and practicing an evacuation plan	☐	☐	☐
Understanding natural disaster risks and how to mitigate them	☐	☐	☐
Operating a HAM or CB radio	☐	☐	☐
Maintaining basic internet access in remote areas	☐	☐	☐
Understanding emergency communication systems	☐	☐	☐
	☐	☐	☐
	☐	☐	☐
Financial and Legal Skills			
Budgeting for off-grid projects and ongoing expenses	☐	☐	☐
Navigating land purchase or lease agreements	☐	☐	☐
Understanding legal rights and responsibilities for off-grid living	☐	☐	☐
Identifying potential tax implications or benefits	☐	☐	☐
	☐	☐	☐

Skill Category and Specific Skill or Knowledge	Good	Need to learn or research	Hire out
Community and Social Skills			
Networking with local off-grid communities	☐	☐	☐
Bartering and trading goods and services	☐	☐	☐
Conflict resolution and effective communication	☐	☐	☐
Participating in local events to strengthen community ties	☐	☐	☐
Delegating tasks and responsibilities effectively	☐	☐	☐
Building relationships with neighbors for mutual support	☐	☐	☐
	☐	☐	☐
	☐	☐	☐
	☐	☐	☐
Food Production and Preservation Skills			
Planning and planting a vegetable garden	☐	☐	☐
Soil preparation and composting	☐	☐	☐
Harvesting & preserving food through canning, drying, or freezing	☐	☐	☐
Raising and caring for livestock (chickens, goats, etc.)	☐	☐	☐
Hunting, fishing, and trapping techniques	☐	☐	☐
Building and maintaining a root cellar	☐	☐	☐
	☐	☐	☐
Other areas you think are important			
	☐	☐	☐
	☐	☐	☐
	☐	☐	☐
	☐	☐	☐
	☐	☐	☐
	☐	☐	☐
	☐	☐	☐
	☐	☐	☐