

Tools for your BOV



Although this list was compiled with an RV BOV in mind it could be used for regular autos with slight modifications. Tools are a priority with us. Both my wife and I have some knowledge of tools and their use. We both appreciate the fact that we have them on the road with us in the event they are needed.

One time we left our home to practice a Bug out drill some distance away. We were in an older class C motorhome (1987) that we had purchased for shorter trips around the state. Mechanical problems were naturally a very real possibility.

We knew there could be long distances between areas with services that were open and since it was in the wintertime, we knew we could face double digit below zero temperatures. We packed to be prepared to take care of ourselves. We took arctic quality clothing, extra food, supplemental heat sources, extra gas, and some basic tools to assist with any breakdowns we might incur.

Here is a list of the tools I chose to take with us on that road trip:

- 1/4 and 3/8 drive socket set, SAE 5/32-3/4, Metric 4mm-19mm
- 3/8 drive deep sockets 3/8-7/8
- Long handled swivel head 3/8 drive ratchet
- 3/8 drive extension 10 inches long
- 12-inch adjustable wrench

- 8-inch adjustable wrench
- 4 assorted size flat screwdrivers
- 3 assorted size Phillips screwdrivers
- Interchangeable screwdriver set with torx (star), allen (hex), and Robertson (square) bits
- 20 ounce framing hammer
- wire stripping and crimping pliers
- Large folding Allen wrench set
- Hacksaw and 6 blades
- Needle nose pliers
- Combination wrenches 3/8-7/8 with extra 7/16, 1/2, 9/16, and 3/4
- #420 Channel Lock pliers
- 8-inch file with handle
- 7/32 round chainsaw file with handle
- flaring tool
- Wire cutter
- 16-foot tape measure
- Stainless steel toothbrush
- Cordless drill, battery, and charger
- drill bit set
- Vise Grip locking pliers
- Standard pliers
- 3/4 wood chisel
- 1/2 cold chisel
- Utility knife and extra blades

We also took the following supplies with us on the trip:

- Assorted wire ties
- Electrical tape
- duct tape
- Assorted crimp on wire connectors
- Scotch-brite pads
- 5x7 ground cloth
- Assorted bulbs: RV interior lighting, tail light, turn signal, etc.
- Permatex ultra-gray RTV silicone
- gold tone deck screws, assorted sizes
- Two partial rolls of 14-gauge electrical wire
- Two fuse holders and 13 assorted fuses
- Old towels for rags
- spray penetrating oil/lubricant

I put most of these items in a large style tool bag. It fit in one of the motorhome's outside storage compartments.

These are what I acquired along the trip:

- Ryobi cordless circular saw - I needed one and found it for five bucks at a flea market.
- A 10-inch adjustable wrench, an older Diamond with a perfect jaw -- two bucks at a garage sale; couldn't pass it up.
- Framing square -- needed one and found it for 25 cents at a yard sale in the RV park; it was rusty.
- Swanson square -- 25 cents, same sale.
- Folding saw that uses Sawzall style blades and 4 blades -- one buck, at a church sale.

Most of my tools are American made. Although I would like to have Snap On, Mac, Matco, and Klein, I'd really need to use these brands every day and be able to use them for a tax deduction to justify their cost. I like and own a lot of Channel Lock, Crescent, Diamond, Craftsman, S-K, Proto, and some Blackhawk. I have some other good and some older brands like Plumb, New Brighton, Herbrand, Wright, P and C, K.D., Williams, Armstrong, Bonney, and Vlchek, mixed in. I shy away from imports, but occasionally I will buy one due to price.

As you can see, I am not very brand loyal, as long as the tools are good quality.