

# *Building a Basic Tool Kit*

Before you get started, gather your tools, and lay them out. I bet you have more than you realize.

## **Shopping for Tools**

First you need to think about how rough you might be on your tools.

You might want to buy higher quality IF you think you might be a bit harder on the tools. Are you strong? Someone who uses force? Someone who uses tools for uses perhaps outside of their intended purpose because it's just too much to go get the proper tool in that moment???

Example: would you use the side of a wrench as a hammer if you didn't have the hammer right there? My favorite tip is to go to [reddit.com/r/Tools/](https://www.reddit.com/r/Tools/) or [Buy it for life: Durable, Quality, Practical \(reddit.com\)](#) and do a search for what I am looking for. You could also look out for Craftsman, the better quality sets at Harbor Freight. I recommend going into a store for things you use with your hands to make sure you like the fit and weight of them.

If the above doesn't describe you and you are just starting out, feel free buy cheaper (Harbor Freight can be a good deal). That said, you don't want to just go with the cheapest you can find either. Nothing like starting a task only to have to stop because your tool broke.

I highly recommend going to garage sales, estate sales and even looking at sites like Craigslist and looking for older tools. Just know what things are going for before you go as some estate sale managers overprice tools. You can often find great prices at garage sales and craigslist.

## **Ingredients of a basic tool kit**

I have all it all on this [Amazon List](#) and also listed below in case you do not want to use Amazon. I do not receive any incentives, financial or otherwise, for these recommendations.

Screwdrivers

- [screwdriver set from Sears.com](#)

Pliers, in particular slip joint pliers (Channel Lock) which are very useful for bigger jobs where you don't have the right end wrench or socket. Helpful too to get the hose off of a faucet.

- [Craftsman 4-Piece Pliers Set \(sears.com\)](#)
- [Craftsman Locking Pliers, 10-Inch Straight Jaw \(CMHT82549\) \(sears.com\)](#)

### Socket wrenches

- [Sockets & Ratchets | DEWALT](#)
- [Craftsman 42-Piece Bit and Torx Bit Socket Wrench Set \(sears.com\)](#)

### End wrenches (nice to have but not necessarily needed right away)

- [HORUSDY 26-Piece Wrench Set](#)

### Hammer

- [Dalluge 1650 16 oz Finishing Hammer \(vaughanmfg.com\)](#)

### Safety glasses (you can even get these now with a prescription)

- [Vision | DEWALT](#)

### Work Gloves

- [Work Gloves | Mechanix Wear](#)

An easy-to-use box cutter – the kind that don't require sharpening (just change the blade out). Make sure you find changing the blade easy. It should be sturdy though and you might find yourself doing some significant and you might find yourself bleeding if it breaks.

- [Fastback II Flip Utility Knife With Storage \(milwaukeeetool.com\)](#)

Heavy Duty Scissors (use these as opposed to the box cutter when you can as they are much safer often faster). Many job sites now use these over box cutters because it lowers the incident of hand injuries.

- [Fiskars PowerArc Serrated Shears — 8in. Blade, Model# 710140-1001 | Northern Tool](#)
- [Kai Scissor 5000 Series Sewing Scissors \(kaiscissors.com\)](#)

A good tape measure or two. We keep a 10' in the house and a 25' at the workbench (ok, actually for some reason, we have a lot of them).

- [www.stanleytools.com](http://www.stanleytools.com)

A level, at least a 6" one.

- [www.stabila.com](http://www.stabila.com)

Some kind of saw. There are a lot of different kinds out there but usually you can make due with what you have.

- [www.sharkcorp.com](http://www.sharkcorp.com)

Stud finder so you don't turn your wall into Swiss cheese or hit plumbing or electrical wires.

- [Professional Stud Finders | Stud Sensor | Stud Detector \(franklinsensors.com\)](#)
- <https://walabot.com/>

A drill with an extra battery. I highly suggest you go to a store and pick them up and pick one that you like the weight and feel of.

- [Power Drills & Electric Drills | DEWALT](#)

## Tips

- Repeat after me: **the task is NOT done until all the tools are wiped down and put up correctly.** Make that your mantra. Write it down and put it where you keep your tools.
- Repeat after me: **the task is NOT done until all the tools are wiped down and put up correctly.** Make that your mantra. Write it down and put it where you keep your tools. (See what I did there. I am serious. Put those tools up clean).
- Have a designated space to store your tools. It can be as simple as a tool bucket (see list) to a toolbox or as fancy as a work bench. If you have a small space, the tool bucket might be perfect for you as it holds a lot and only needs a small space in a closet. I love the tool bucket.
  - [Husky 82079N14 Bucket Jockey: Amazon.com: Tools & Home Improvement](#)
- This is a good book to orient you on your tool journey as well:
  - [The Tool Book: A Tool Lover's Guide to Over 200 Hand Tools](#)
- If money is tight, don't fret. You can buy as you go along. But you should plan now for saving. If you haven't done it yet, check out our template at:
  - [Main + Tenacious \(mn.co\)](#)