

A Long-Term Survival Guide – Typical Weapons Caches:



Here is a typical selection of guns and gear, that will be stored in these 60 MM and 120 MM ammo can cache containers.

Weapons and Ammo Caches: Guns and ammo have special storage needs, so great care must be put into caching them. Most pistols are compact enough that you can store a pistol and ammo in almost any size of ammo can. In general, I always place a couple of disposable diapers in the bottom of the can, to absorb water in case the can ever leaks. Then I fill the can with the pistol and ammo, and any accessories I want, such as extra magazines, a cleaning kit, and perhaps a holster. Finally I place a bag of desiccant at the top, to keep the air dry. Guns and ammo stored this way will last forever. For burial and long term storage, I prefer to add a layer of silicone caulk to the rubber gasket of the ammo can. I also like to give the sealed can a couple of coats of anti-rust spray paint, and wrap it in plastic, but you can decide for yourself how much effort you want to put into preparing your cache containers.

I usually include a few extra items in every weapons cache, such as a knife, butane lighter, surplus bandoliers, a small surplus gun cleaning kit, drawstring bag, and broken shell extractor, but what you add to each can is up to you. I put each pistol in a silicone-impregnated gun sock, along with at least one extra magazine (Revolvers can be stored with an extra cylinder, if desired).

How long guns are cached usually depends on the type of gun. Those with folding stocks, and those which can be broken down into two parts easily, will fit into a tall 120 MM mortar can, with room for extra ammo & gear.

If you have a long gun which can't be broken down and reassembled easily, it is best to store it in a PVC pipe cache. Some people have a problem with the idea of caching their expensive guns, and if you can't bring yourself to store high quality weapons, then I suggest buying cheap military surplus rifles and used police revolvers to cache. This is always a good idea, as you can afford more cheap guns, and in a long-term survival situation, there will be an unbelievable demand for ATS (anything that shoots).

The rifle cache container should have the same setup as the smaller cans; put disposable diapers in what will be the bottom, a bag of desiccant at the top, and put the gun in a silicone gun sock. For guns and ammo in home caches that may be accessed fairly regularly, you can simply close the lid on the ammo can, and the rubber seal will keep the contents dry. Check the condition of seals, and test empty ammo cans by submerging closed cans in water and looking for air bubbles.

For long-term storage in buried caches, ammo cans and other containers should ALWAYS be sealed with silicone caulking, in addition to the rubber gasket already present. I like to smear some caulk on the gasket, close the can, turn it upside down, and then run a generous bead of caulk around the crack between lid and can. Be sure to let the caulk cure thoroughly, before caching your container.



Pelican rifle storage case, and Rust Blocker Strips. These give off rust-preventing vapors, to protect your guns.

If you can afford them, you can buy special aluminum gun cases, such as Pelican cases, but they are costly. Another way is to put your long guns in plastic bags with rust blocker strips, which emit anti-rust vapors, and then put the gun in any hard gun case. There are also gun storage bags for sale which are already impregnated with the same anti-rust compounds, and they also emit anti-rust vapors to protect your guns.



This plastic rifle storage bag is treated with a rust-preventing compound, similar to the rust blocker strips, and will protect your gun even if the gun case you choose is not watertight. Of course with the strips, you can use any strong plastic bag.

One more storage option is to coat your gun with cosmoline, which is still available from Brownells, and some surplus stores. But if none of these items are available when you want to store your guns, another cheap and effective protection method is to coat your gun with a thick layer of gun grease, or wheel bearing grease, and then seal it in a strong plastic bag, or mylar bag. Bearing grease has the same anti-rust compounds as gun grease, and is sold at all auto parts stores and hardware stores. When I am stocking up on bearing grease, I like to buy the brands which come in small plastic tubs, as they are sturdier than the cardboard cans, so they store better, and won't leak.



THESE CUPS FIT INSIDE
THE BUTTSTOCK TRAP
DOOR OF ALL US
MILITARY SERVICE
RIFLES & MOST
FOREIGN MILITARY
SERVICE RIFLES

Cosmoline is still available, and so is military surplus gun grease, like these little grease pots.



Shown here is military surplus weapons oil, and wheel bearing grease.



These items are a must when caching guns and ammo: Disposable Diapers, Desiccant Packs, and Silicone Gun Socks.

There are other things you can do to protect equipment and supplies in caches, if you want to. The air in cache containers can be replaced with nitrogen or carbon dioxide gas, to keep oxygen from attacking your gear. You can also buy oxygen absorber packets, and put them in the containers just before sealing. I like to gas my bulk grains, so that if the grain has weevils or eggs, they will not have any oxygen. You can put a plastic tube in the cache container before adding any supplies, extending from the bottom of the container to the outside. Then you can use the tube to fill the container with gas from a tank, pull the tube out, and seal the container. For carbon dioxide, dry ice can be wrapped in a scrap of cloth or paper and placed in the bottom of the container. Let it gasify overnight with the container full and the lid on loosely before sealing the container, to prevent pressure buildup. These techniques are optional, so you can decide if the extra protection is worth the extra work.