

Shelter Overview

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Your home is your castle! But how protective and secure is it against all those threats lurking out there?

Some of the questions you might ask yourself:

- How weatherproof is it? If there were a high wind, a storm even a tsunami or tornado would it protect me?
- If there were an earthquake, what kind of damage might it suffer?
- Could it be damaged by a flood or even a volcanic eruption?
- If there were no gas or electricity, would it keep me warm?
- If there were a conventional war how likely would it to be targeted or bombed?
- In a nuclear holocaust would it be far enough away from any likely target to survive major damage?
- Would it protect me from nuclear fallout?
- Could it be easily defended against marauders or the zombie apocalypse?
- Etc

Often, we have little choice where we live, because let's face it we need to stay close our family or to our workplace. What we can afford will also be a limiting factor. However, within these constraints we can make certain adjustments that may help us mitigate some of the dangers.

- Get as sub-urban as possible. City centers and near suburbs will be prime targets for nuclear attack. Too much into the country leaves one too vulnerable to the marauders/zombies and isolated from any help. A relative insignificant small suburb or small village community can pull together to provide cooperative survival services and defense.
- Get as far away from critical infrastructure as possible. Defense bases, ports, airports, communication towers will also be prime targets in any nuclear attack.
- Never buy a house on a flood plain or close to a volcanic hazard or in an earthquake zone. If you live close to the coast, make sure you live above potential tsunami height.
- Consider how a house has been built. Steel or stone construction will be stronger. Older houses with thicker walls and small windows may be safer.
- Keep your property in good condition to protect against storm or possible blast damage. If possible, protect your windows with bars or shutters. Make sure all doors are solid and with good locks.
- Review your utility supplies, particularly power and water. Get as much "off-grid" as you can; consider solar panels, coal or wood burning fires. A well, water butts should be considered. Living close to a stream or independent water source may also be useful. A warmer climate will mean less reliance on heating.
- You may need a garden to grow vegetables or keep stock! Access to resources locally (such as woodland for fuel) will also be important.
- Review your house's internal room structure, a "safer" room away from windows and towards the middle of the house may serve better for blast or nuclear fallout protection.

- Is your property well hidden? Locations behind other houses or a garden with solid, tall, and secure fencing may more easily deter marauders/zombies.
- A CCTV system might be useful to monitor external defenses.
- For even greater safety, security and protection consider adding a fortified safe room or a hidden underground shelter to your property. Does your house have cellars which can be utilized? Since 1963, all new houses and buildings in Switzerland must by law incorporate a nuclear fallout shelter.

Summary and Checklist

WHEN LOOKING AT SHELTER, IMPORTANT THINGS TO CONSIDER FOR SURVIVAL ARE THEREFORE:

1. Location

- Climate
- Natural hazards
- Population density
- Critical (targetable) infrastructure
- Supportive infrastructure
- Resource availability
- Local Positioning

2. Structure

- Type
- Size
- Condition
- Layout
- Modifications
- Defendable?