

## Barter

The last thing you need to pack is some form of currency. If the economy is dead, then there are only a few things that have value. Obviously, your own skills are first. Are they barterable?

If not, better learn some. The skills we are talking about go way back. So far back, they were not considered skills at the time, and along the way have been lost to many of us.

Can you find the direction in the woods?

Do you know enough about edible plants to survive a full year?

Do you know about medicinal plants?

Can you hunt, trap and fish?

Can you make a fire, purify water, make a good shelter?

These will not only be valuable skills, they will be necessary skills.

The other barterables are more tangible.



Watches - especially wind up ones like pocket watches.

Deck of playing cards – (An ordinary deck of playing cards can represent an Almanac) see more about this on the site).

Harmonica (Who can survive without music? Even the earliest humans created music from hollow reeds and drums)

Cigarettes (a form of currency , like gold or silver)

Lighters - whether they work or not, as long as they spark, they are useful.

Gold – rings, jewelry, diamonds, coins (diamonds and precious stones – not so much – it takes an expert to identify genuine stones, so expect most people will believe them worthless, even if they are real.)



A note here on gold.

While gold items such as rings may be good to have, pure gold in coin or bullion form is not such a great idea. At this time, gold is running about \$1800 per ounce. Possessing a gold coin is like possessing a \$1000 dollar bill in an exact change lane. Breaking it down to match barter rates may be a problem. This is where silver and jewelry come in, they become the 'small change' in the new world. Consider what is known as 'junk silver'. This is typical of old silver coins (pre 1964) and jewelry, and will be much handier as small change. Forget diamonds and precious stones. In a barter situation, the chances are pretty good that whoever you are dealing with won't know an amethyst from an atheist.

#### **Other Barterables:**

Arms of any kind, ammunition (assuming you have more than you need, not likely)

Knives - if you have any extra (you might).

SPICES - Will be highly desired in a freeze-dried world.

Seeds - small and easy to carry - packaging is critical however.

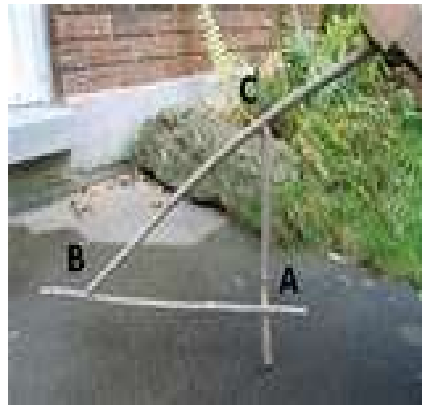
Alcohol – those mini bottles could be handy, and it won't freeze.

Traps & Snares – Jump traps, especially the smaller sizes are fairly easy to carry

Books, diagrams, maps - While these may prove to be barterable, initially, many people will have them, so they would be more of an investment, rather than “quick cash”...

Drugs – Since I know you aren’t dealers, prescription drugs may prove a valuable commodity, especially antibiotics.

Below is a nice example of a “figure 4” deadfall trigger, and is representative of the kinds of skills that would be valuable to have.



Fishing gear – especially pocket reels, “automatic fishermen”, HOOKS..



Hopefully, this short list will give you a few ideas, In general, any small useful item that cannot be easily fabricated in a survival situation is an ideal candidate for barter.