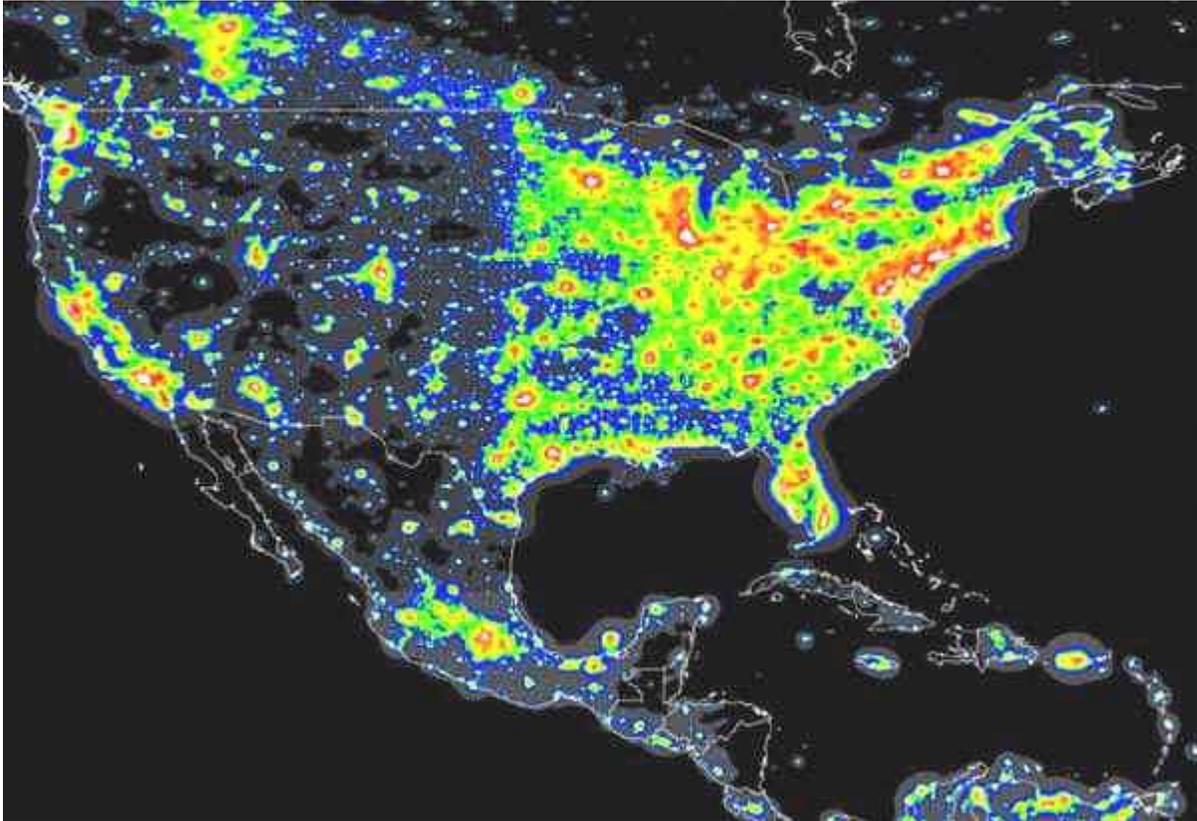


Life's Pollution

No matter where we live we are surrounded by all the sights, smells and sounds of the world around us. We don't think twice that we see more stars in the country sky, that at night sound seems to travel farther or that we smell that fire in a fireplace from the other side of town at night.



As Preppers we need to stop, think and plan about this and how the removal of this "pollution" will affect our SHTF world. This is especially true for us urban Preppers.



If the crisis we are preparing for will remove electricity and or fossil fuel transportation forgetting this could be deadly. We will be confronted with a SHTF world where sight, sound and smells will be more easily detected – even during the day!



We will not be able to just light a fire in the fireplace to keep warm or to cook or use our outdoor kitchens in place of our inside stoves. Using an axe to chop wood or a candle flickering behind a curtain will become beacons to all those around us. The sights, smells and sounds of these activities will be detected for at least a mile.



What is the topology of your urban area? Is your retreat located in a part of the city where it will now be more readily seen? Do you live near a heavily wooded city park? Do you live in a part of town that is known for its larger properties or is a rural like pocket? Is there a river or pond near you? Consider this and how it may “draw” more desperate people to your area for water, building and or fuel material or what necessities to life they think you have.



This means that we must plan now to reduce these signs that seem to tell one and all that we are surviving quite nicely, thank you.



Think about getting a wood stove or fireplace insert that re-burns what usually goes directly up the chimney so that there is nothing more than heat waves that are seen or smelled from the outside. Sure if someone has a thermal scope or the like they will still be able to detect this from far away, but how many people actually have one of these things or would even think to use it in such a fashion?



If you have your own water well or generator, plan now to enclose it in some sort of sound proof structure and alternate exhaust for the generator. (Although what you will do for generator fuel in a long term SHTF world is something you need to consider too.)



Make sure you have a grill that you can use inside your closed garage so the smoke and smell of your cooking cannot be detected from miles away.



Make some kind of easily installed blackout devices for your windows, doors and skylights. Remember just closing the blinds or drapes will not do the job and you are in a SHTF world so tape or nail marks on your walls and ceilings are no longer important.



Try to find a place that is enclosed or surrounded by lots of shrubs, bushes and trees to cut your firewood in. Got a good sized shed you can sound proof for this? Find anything you can to muffle and hinder the sound from traveling easily.



Find some way to hinder the sight of your outdoor garden or food animals so they cannot be seen easily in the now "life pollution" free SHTF world. The smells and sounds of any livestock need to be considered and minimized too.



Where you cannot mute these smells, sounds and sights be sure your defense plans take this into account and are workable. Make sure you have good deterrents in place for your property line (outer perimeter) and access points to your home (inner perimeter).

Remember too that instead of protecting your home, loved ones and possessions from the usual one or two intruders looking for quick money, you may very well have to deal with a handful or more people at a time who are desperate for the necessity to life items that they lack and you seem to have.

Now is the time to get your MacGyver thinking caps on. To get you started here are a few things some friends and acquaintances are doing:

Old Styrofoam coolers cut up to line a box built to cover the water well pump and reduce the noise.



Using old cardboard boxes built into new boxes with 8" lips to fit in the windows and doors of the house. They are labeled, broken down and stored in the garage. Duct tape is used to hold them in place. For a few windows and doors that they wish to open at times for air, these have duct tape hinges and Velcro lips so they can be opened and closed as needed.

Scrounged and "woven" together chain link fencing, razor and barbed wire; tied in some discarded poles and pre-dug some holes around the property line to insert said poles; stores the rolled up "instant fencing" in some scattered sheds and practices deployment.

Wireless driveway alarms and solar wireless dusk to dawn motion detection landscape lighting used around the property line and outside the residence.

For brick, adobe or stone walls build a wall top planter that is deep enough to hold some kind of thorny hedge plants and bolt to the top of the wall.

Wireless solar powered alarms, bells, whistles or booby traps, trenches and palisades (like fort walls but closer to the residence itself). These are deployed by scattering around the property from the property line to the house.

Practical security landscaping and lighting that is good now and in the SHTF world.

Interior steel and wood window shutters that are decorative now on the walls but effectively close up the windows for blackout and difficult entry. Put slats in them for peeking out or defense.

Old foam or Styrofoam bits and pieces put together in panels and are easily hung from the walls around or inside the chicken coop and rabbit hutch, etc for soundproofing.

Wire panel baskets filled with used charcoal, burnt wood and foam or fabric scraps which are placed around the wall and ceiling vents to the garage to limit smoke and smells when closed and cooking on the grill.

Got any more cheap, easy and effective ideas?

*“Forewarned, forearmed; to be prepared
is half the victory.” Miguel de Cervantes
Saavedra*

Prep On!

TNT