

"4x4 Items" List

Stuff to take along in your Syncro for Four-Wheeling

1. GMRS/FRS band walkie-talkie radios. These are the kind sold at every Wal-Mart, Target, or Radio Shack by makers such as Motorola, Uniden, Cobra, Kenwood, Midland and many others. Recommended: The kind with a nice display and as many channels as is available. At least 14 primary FRS channels and 38 sub-codes (aka CTCSS number, security codes, quiet codes). The very basic kind with just the 14 primary channels are not worth it as too many people are talking on these channels. Most of these devices sold today have both the original FRS channels and the additional channels that GMRS added, totaling of 22 or 23.
2. Trash bags: Each vehicle should have its own trash containers. Nothing should be left on the trail.
3. Spare keys: Spare keys for both the doors & ignition should be available. Either carry in pocket/wallet or duct tape to vehicle.
4. Yank strap: Each vehicle should have its own yank strap. These are also called a snatch strap. Made of Nylon. At least 30' long. 2" wide with a 20,000 lb rating. NO HOOKS OR OTHER METAL should be attached to the strap.
5. Fire extinguisher: Should be mounted, easily accessible, and rated for all types of fires.
 6. Spare parts: Belts for at least water pump/alternator, and power steering pump. ☐ Hose repair kits & hose clamps for all sizes of hoses on your vehicle. ☐ Wire, fuel hose (Vanagons require high pressure fuel injection hose). ☐ Spark plug wire long enough to replace the longest wire in use. ☐ Other items as you see fit.
7. Fuel & oil: Be certain to have a full tank of fuel and at least one spare quart of engine oil.
8. Jack & tire tools. Of course a functional jack & lug wrench are required to change a tire. You should also have a tire "patch kit". Recommend: "Safety Seal Tire Plugger".

9. Hi-Lift jack: Much better than typical jack at helping you get unstuck. Requires custom bumpers or an adapter for use on a Vanagon.
10. Shovel: Short handled shovel with full or mid size pointed scoop. Smaller folding shovels may be adequate but will take much longer to get you unstuck.
11. Winch or heavy duty "Come-Along": Very useful in the certain situations, although usually not required.
12. Maps, maps, maps, & compass. Obtain the best maps available for the area you'll be traveling in. Always try to obtain maps from two or more sources. A GPS which has detailed maps stored in the device is a good choice for one of the two maps. A compass could be very useful if you know how to use it, if not, also pack a book on compass use. Do not rely on a typical smartphone-based GPS which requires cellular data for operation.
13. Toolbox adequately stocked with tools for the types of fasteners your vehicle has. Include extra 10mm and 13mm wrenches, the special large wrench needed (along with a hammer) to remove the rear brake drum, and an oil filter wrench.