

## "What do Gulf Coast residents need (as of January 2008)?"

- compiled by Kathleen Johnson, [www.reliefvolunteers.com](http://www.reliefvolunteers.com)

If you have any of these items to donate, please email us at [donateitems@gulfcoastworks.org](mailto:donateitems@gulfcoastworks.org)

1. **Used tools** for the Disaster Relief Organizations on the ground. We have more tools lost and broken in a day than we can afford to replace. If the donating home owners would go thru their garages and send every "extra" tool they have - it would help. Extra hammers, screw drivers, drills, drill bits, chisels, scrapers, brooms, shovels, sledge hammers, and that extra \$88.00 dollar crimping tool (both 1/2" and 3/4") for that new fangled plumbing that works so well down here. And all those extra "fittings" you bought but never worked and you threw them in the garage - we can use each and every one of them.

2. Along with that the **extra box of nails, screws, and odds nuts and bolts**. We are always scrounging for that special nut or bolt and do not want to run to the hardware store.

3. **Paint supplies** - desperate need. Paint brushes , rollers, tarps, extender handles. Used or new - we can use them.

4. **Paint** - I am starting to run short of paint. I either need another donation or someone to pay for \$50.00 per pallet shipping fee so I can get more down here. We have given away hundreds of gallons of paint over the last year. It is a desperate need.

5. **Ladders** - always a critical need for more ladders

6. **Saw horses** - never enough of them onsite.

7. **Cleaning supplies** - desperate need for clorox always.

8. Drinking water - desperate need for bottled water

9. **Tarps** - because of the rain and supplies being delivered to new home sites we never have enough tarps to cover the loads. Critical need.

10. **Rope**. No matter how much rope I buy - I always seem to be sending it down the road with a client when they stop to pick up something we have donated to them. I never seem to get the ropes back - and I never push the issue. But I could sure use a box load of that yellow rope you can buy at Lowes or Home Depot.

11. **#2 Phillips driving bits** - we use them for sheetrock. We never have enough and wear them out faster than we can replace them. Not only the #2's but a few sets of driving bits. It is something that wears out because of the extreme use here.

12. **Nails: 16d, 8d both cement coated and galvanized**. And nails for our air guns - both coil type and the regular. We use Passload and Bostich. They are expensive and we never seem to have enough.

13. **Utility knives** - it does not matter how many dozen I buy they wear out or are lost in transport somewhere to and from the warehouse to the home. We buy them by the dozen.

14. **Extension cords** - never enough.

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15. **Canvas tote bags** - we use them to pack our extension cords in. WE desperately need more. It can be the tote bags or used backpacks the kids discarded from last year?
16. **Big pots and pans for the kitchen.** We never seem to have enough "big" pots and pans in our kitchen when cooking for the volunteers. Could use a half dozen more.
17. **Newspaper** - yes plain old newspaper. We need it for starting the fire here at the volunteer house. Never have enough. We also use it for covering up and picking up paint and other spills on the job and in the warehouse.
18. **Home Depot Cards, Lowes Card, Gas Cards** - always welcome for those unexpected expenses when out on the job. No matter how hard you plan - there is always that "one more thing".
19. **Bar oil for the chain saw.** Oil for the trucks and cars. If you have extra in your garage your not using - we can use it.
20. **Laundry soap** - its expensive and we are always in need of it.
21. **Toilet paper and paper towels** - never enough.
22. **Tie down straps** - we need heavy duty tie down straps.
23. **Ink cartridges** for our printers. Every DRO in town needs printer cartridges for their printers. If you have extra in your drawers that were the "wrong" type - send them here and we will find someone with that printer.
24. **Copy paper** - never enough
25. **File folders** - we never have enough
26. **Hanging file folders** - never enough
27. **Pens** - I can never find a pen in this office. With the client load we have they disapear at a rapid rate. The clients fill out the forms and accidently put the pen in their pocket. Its just one of those inventory items we can not control.
28. **4 x 4 index cards**, sticky notes, and three ring file folders
29. **Dish washing detergent.** We use it for washing dishes and for mold abatement out in the field.
30. **Used laptops** - this environment is tough on computers.
31. **Light bulbs** - never enough. Every time we work on a house - we have to round up a light bulb supply.

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32. **Used lawnmowers and weed whips** - we wear out our lawn mowers and weed whips. In the spring and summer we mow an extraordinary amount of peoples yards here. If you updated to a bigger and spiffier lawnmower we would be thrilled to take your working used lawnmower. If we can not use it at the time - we have a mile of people we can donate them to.

33. **Rakes, shovels, picks, and sledgehammers** - we just plain wear them out or the handles break. It costs more to replace the handle than to buy a new one.

34. **Parts to repair our wheel barrows** - handles and tires.

33. **And we need you** - the volunteer. This relief effort can not function without more volunteers coming down here. We are in desperate need of both skilled and unskilled volunteers. Both short term and long term. If you are retired and would like to work here in the office or in the field - we would be thrilled to have you come stay with us. We have housing available (albeit primitive) or RV spots. Just give us a call and we would be glad to answer any questions.

\* We need you come to answer the phone - give the office staff a break \* We need you to come and assist us in the field hauling material \* We need you to run errands in the field

\* We need you to come and frame up that house \* We need you to come and move that sheetrock up to the first floor now a house nine feet in the air \* We need you to come and put a roof on that house and the next one \* We need you to come tape and texture \* We need you to come help us pour the concrete for the pilons \* We need you to wash out the wheel barrow when its done \* We need you to put the wheelbarrow back in the truck and take it back to the warehouse \* We need you to sweep the floor in the warehouse \* We need you to help fix the meals for the volunteers \* We need you to help mow that yard for the 86 year old that lost her house and now all she has is a slab and all those weeds and she lives in Texas somewhere, or New Hampshire - but she loves that yard and remembers it as it was \* We need you to come and help the long term volunteers who are worn and and tired after two years plus \* We just need you - we have so far to go and 400,000 home were destroyed or damaged and we are barely 20% completed \* And, if you come, could you please bring some supplies - wisdom and all that energy we so desperately need.