

The Organized Overlander: Packing For Your Journey

By Stephanie Hackney



Photos By: Doug Hackney, Scott Brady,
Kathy Stajic, Kemal Ertem

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My Background a.k.a. The Bonafides




- Travel History
 - Traveled through 43 countries, across 6 continents, *so far!*
 - Travel by foot, motorcycle, car, sailboat, overland vehicle, bus, train & plane
- Prior to Overlanding:
 - Military Brat: 21 moves by the age of 16 – *this gal knows how to pack!*
 - Event Management: 125+ corporate events, and hundreds of thousands of details, managed each year
 - Professional Organizer: provided organizing services to individuals & businesses
 - Business Travel: 75-150k+ miles and 150-200+ days per year

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2



In the Good Old Days...

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All of a Sudden, I Was Forced to Manage with...

This! ➔

←

Note the relative scale of my "new" bag compared to just one of my old, beloved bags!



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Total bike storage = 257.5 liters / 9.1 cubic feet

Bike spare parts, tubes

Steph's clothes

Steph's camera bag, spare hardware, long tire irons

Travel books, maps, shoes, electric fleeces, outlet strip, chargers

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Total bike storage = 257.5 liters / 9.1 cubic feet

Carnet, bike registration, hat, maps, electronics, etc.

Under seat - tools, tire repair

Video Camera

Doug's clothes, laptop

Doug's camera bag, air pump, service manual CD, vehicle docs

Bike cover, wheel lock, cable lock

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But Then, I Was Presented With...

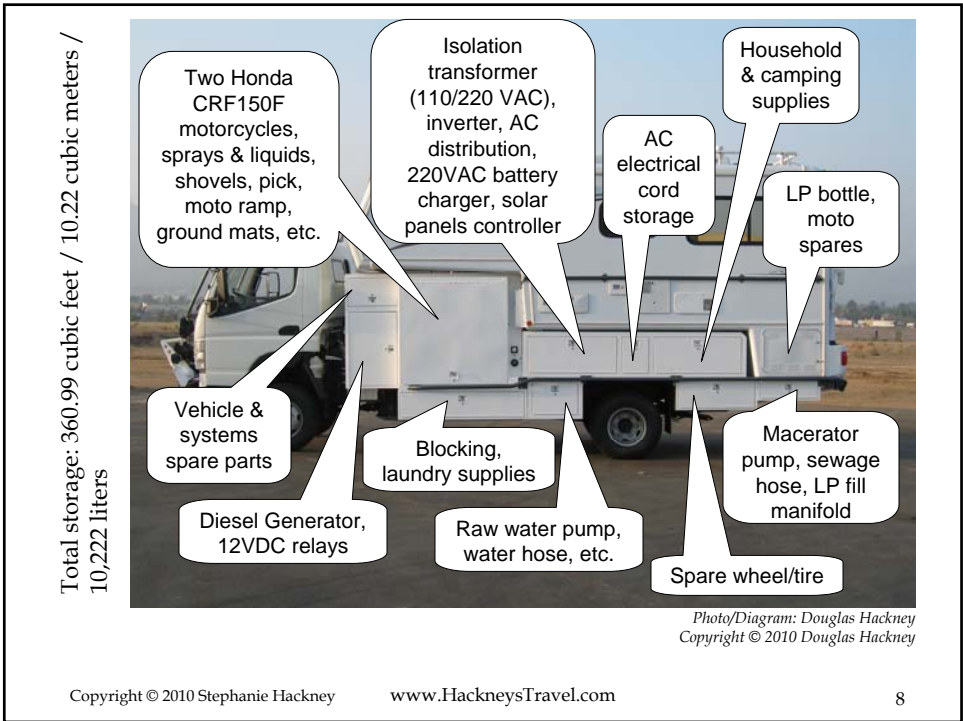
This!



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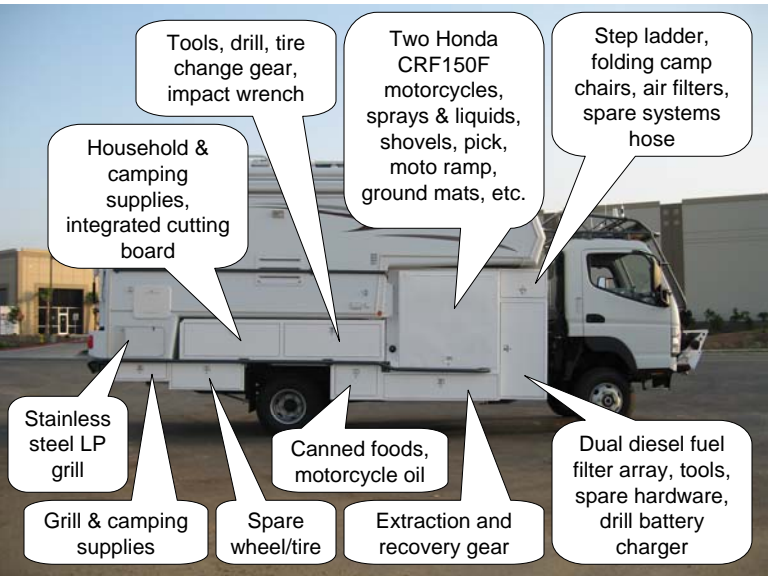
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Total storage: 360.99 cubic feet / 10.22 cubic meters / 10,222 liters



Tools, drill, tire change gear, impact wrench

Household & camping supplies, integrated cutting board

Stainless steel LP grill

Grill & camping supplies

Spare wheel/tire

Extraction and recovery gear

Two Honda CRF150F motorcycles, sprays & liquids, shovels, pick, moto ramp, ground mats, etc.

Canned foods, motorcycle oil

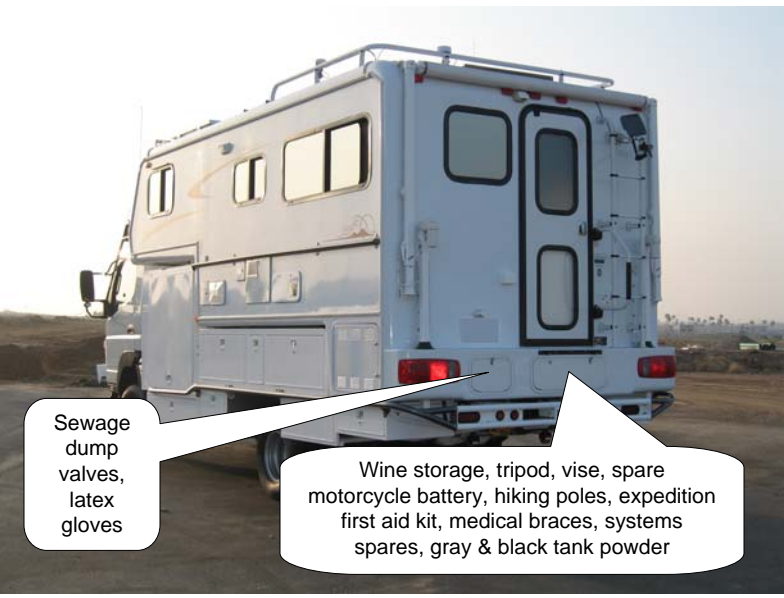
Step ladder, folding camp chairs, air filters, spare systems hose

Dual diesel fuel filter array, tools, spare hardware, drill battery charger

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Total storage: 360.99 cubic feet / 10.22 cubic meters / 10,222 liters



Sewage dump valves, latex gloves

Wine storage, tripod, vise, spare motorcycle battery, hiking poles, expedition first aid kit, medical braces, systems spares, gray & black tank powder

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In Other Words:

A Heckofalotta Room!
Oh, Yah!



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11

What Did I Learn Through These Transitions?

- I still wore the same 10 items of clothing
- I still wasn't all that great at predicting how my time would be spent
- I still brought along things that were not used
- I still thought I would NEED way more than I actually did!

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12

Today, You Will Learn...

- The most important principles of organizing
- How to distinguish between NEEDS and WANTS
- What items were beneficial vs. what was just an obligation when we traveled
- What items I recommend (*or simply adore!*)
- How to pack
- The answers to your specific questions

The Principles of Organizing

- Being organized is **NOT** about:
 - *Every thing* being perfect
 - *You* being perfect
- Being organized **IS** about being in control of:
 - Your Immediate Environment
 - Your Stuff
 - Your Time
 - Your Productivity
 - Your Money

Why & How Do We Acquire?

- 3,200 marketing messages a day, and darn good marketing!
 - We see how happy, successful and/or good looking the people who own item x are and we want to be them, to have their life!
- We surf the internet, visit the mall or watch infomercials when bored, unhappy or maybe even tipsy
- We can't resist a bargain
- We want to reward ourselves for working hard or accomplishing a goal
- We want to mark our time on earth
- We're trying to fill a void
- We want to impress others
- We have an addiction to acquisition
- We fear being without something at some time in the future
- We inherit items
- We receive gifts
- We actually NEED something

How Do I Get More Organized?

- **STOP unnecessary** acquisition. Period.
- Every time you are considering bringing something into your life, ask yourself these questions:
 - Do I LOVE it?
 - Do I really NEED it?
 - How often will I use it?
 - Can I borrow or rent it instead of buying it?
 - Do I need it NOW?
 - Can I get a better deal on it elsewhere?
 - Where will I store it?
 - Am I being realistic about my NEED for this, or is this more of a WANT?

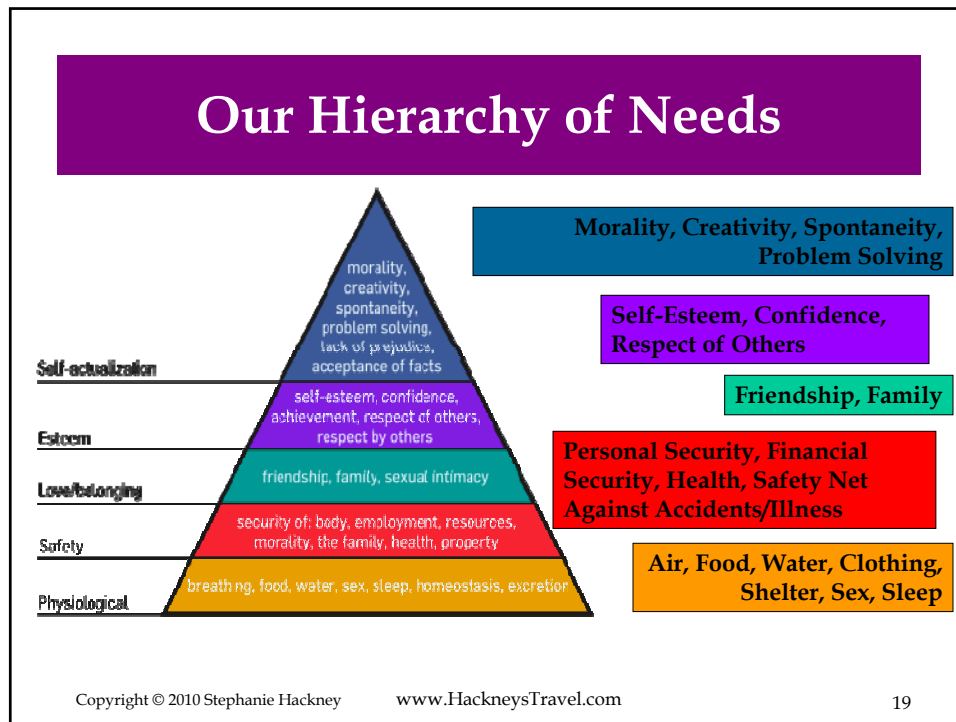
The *Most* Important Concept...

**Everything you allow
to come into your life
becomes an obligation
to YOU!**

And, much of this attention
involves your hard-earned dollars!

Packing for Your Journey: What YOU Need vs. What You NEED

- Desert-Island Scenario:
 - If you were stranded on a desert island and **had to survive on your own**, and could only take along five items, what would they be?
 - Now you have to leave two of them behind, what would make the final cut?



- ## How Do Our Basic Needs Translate to Stuff?
- **Air:** asthma inhalers, dust masks, etc.
 - **Food:** clean water, matches, cooking fuel, cooking supplies, spices, etc.
 - **Water:** water filtration system, bottles, etc.
 - **Clothing:** shoes, clothing items, etc.
 - **Shelter:** tent, vehicle, etc.
 - **Sex:** birth control, hygiene supplies, etc.
 - **Sleep:** bed, sleeping bag/pad, blankets, ear plugs, mosquito net, etc.
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How Do Our Safety/Security Needs Translate to Stuff?

- **Personal Security:** money belt, locking doors, language book/ dictionary, travel guides, K&R insurance, ditch bag, etc.
- **Financial Security:** money belt, book safe, back-up credit cards, travel insurance, etc.
- **Health:** first-aid kit, prescriptions, OTC medications, etc.

How Do Our Needs Around Friendship, Family, Self-Esteem/Confidence & Respect of Others Translate to Stuff?

- **Friendship:** VOIP-enabled laptop, phone
- **Family:** VOIP-enabled laptop, phone
- **Self-Esteem/Confidence:** exercise equipment, appropriate clothing, etc.
- **Respect of Others:** language books, travel guides, head scarf, etc.

How Do Our Needs Around Morality, Creativity, Spontaneity & Problem Solving Translate To Stuff?

- **Morality:** holy books, books about spirituality, prayer beads, etc.
- **Creativity:** journal, artist pens, etc.
- **Spontaneity:** games, sports equipment, etc.
- **Problem Solving:** books, manuals, etc.

So, Before You Buy One Single Thing, Ask Yourself:

- Does This:
 - Enable Me To Reach My Travel Goals?
 - Enable or Restrict My Journey & Enjoyment?
 - Enable Me To Live Simply?
 - Communicate Who I Am?
 - Help Me *Become* Who I Want to Be?
- And, Is It:
 - **Worth Its Weight?**

This IS worth its weight!



Too Much Stuff!



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27

Yes, It Was Well Organized, But...



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28

Next Time, We Would...

- ...start with basic NEEDS
- ...be more realistic about what we'll be doing with our time based on our:
 - Goals
 - Personalities
 - Destinations
- ...purge items as soon as we realized they would not likely be used
- ...have a scale on hand to weigh every item
- ...take less stuff!

And, We'd Again Test, Test, Test!

- Practice packing and unpacking, in as many conditions as possible!
- Take test trips to places where you can try out your proposed "lifestyle"
- Keep a notebook/list of what works and what doesn't, what you use and what you wish you had along - get rid of the things you don't need!
- Prior to departing on your journey, test again with updated pack and inventory

Lastly, We'd Again Pack Our Stuff In An Organized Manner

- Start with your NEEDS and create a pack list
- Determine what can be eliminated from the list - remove it!
- Label everything, including all containers
- Pack like items together
- Make sure all items are in containers or otherwise protected
- Choose appropriate containers
 - Locking and clear, when possible
- Limit the work necessary to access items
- Store items where they will need to be accessed and used
- Keep valuables out of sight
- **IMPORTANT! ALWAYS** put items back where they belong!

Want to See MY Last Pack List?

Pick Up a Handout
at the End of This Presentation

Still Not Convinced to Leave Most of The Stuff Behind? Then Consider...

- What will the roads be like where you're going?
- What is the weather like?
- How many borders will you likely cross?
- How important is ease of access to everything?
- Is it possible to purchase needed items at your destinations?
- Do you want to be able to collect souvenirs or buy gifts on your journey?
- Will you be OK leaving your vehicle if it's loaded with a lot of valuables?

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33

And Now, The Moment You've All Been Waiting For.....

The Stuff!

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On The Go: Packing/Traveling



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On-The-Go: Driving



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36



Organization: Kitchen



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Essentials/Organization: Bathroom



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Essentials/Organization: Living Area & Bedroom



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Essentials: Entertainment



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Essentials: Clothing

- Quick-dry, rugged shirts, pants/shorts, socks and underwear (known as “travel clothing”)
- Rain-proof jacket
- Fleece shell(s)
- Wide-brim sun hat and/or baseball cap
- Shower shoes/Flip-flops
- Water shoes
- Good quality, waterproof hiking boots



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Organization: Clothing/Closet



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Organization: Paperwork & Data



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47

Some of My Favorite Products

- Footprint Guides (Travel Books)
- Ziplocs
- Eagle Creek Pack Cubes
- Moleskin Journals
- Royal Robbins Anywhere Pants
- LowePro Camera Bags
- PacSafes
- Canon Cameras
- Doctors Picks
- REI Camping Towels
- KnifeSafes
- Windex
- OXO Dish Brushes/Sponges
- Built NY Bottle Carriers
- Apple iPod

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48

Some of My Favorite Retailers

- The Container Store
- Organize.com
- OrganizeIt.com
- TJ Maxx/Marshall's/Homegoods
- Tuesday Morning
- Bed Bath & Beyond (*Linens & Things, RIP*)
- Target
- Big Lots
- REI
- Amazon.com

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49

Now, Remember, No Matter How You Plan To Travel...



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50



It Ain't About The Stuff!

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51

Questions?

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52