MEMBERS VAULT

Do This Month

A 12-month calendar of things to check, restock, or build — at an ordinary household pace.

YEAR [YEAR]

This is a twelve-month prompt, not a mandate. I built it from the books I actually had in hand: the seasonal maintenance calendar in *The Practical Self-Reliance Handbook*, the rink-season order in *The Backyard Ice Rink*, the twice-a-year pantry check, a calm family practice from *What Would We Do If…?*, smokehouse care through the seasons, and the contact and kit lists in *The Offline Advantage*. I did not have an interior for *The Practical Family Compound*, so those projects are not on these pages. Seasons arrive at different times depending on where you live. Slide a month if your climate does. A rink page is a window, not a promise of ice.

This calendar is a planning aid. Months are general guides, not promises. Weather, climate, local rules, and your household will differ. Rink timing depends on a real stretch of cold where you live, not on the printed month. This is not a guarantee of readiness, ice, or results.

BUILT, NOT JUST WRITTEN.

MEMBERS VAULT · DO THIS MONTH

How to use this calendar

Treat each month as a prompt. Skip it if it does not fit the household or the climate. Nothing here is overdue the morning the month begins.

1. Write this year's number in the [YEAR] field on the cover, and any household dates you already know on the last page.
2. Use the year-at-a-glance to see the shape of the year, then open only the month you are in.
3. Rink notes depend on a real stretch of cold where you live, not on the printed month. You will see language such as "this is often the month to get the frame ready" and "flood only when the cold actually holds." You will not see a holiday ice date.
4. When a task is a pantry, kit, or build-plan job, open the tool you already have: the 30-Day Shelter Pantry Tracker, the Practical Household Kit, or the matching Backyard Build Plan.
5. The every-month checks from the handbook are printed once below, and again as a short reminder on each month's page.

EVERY MONTH

Every month, from The Practical Self-Reliance Handbook, Appendix H: test smoke and CO alarms; start the generator and run it 20–30 minutes under load, if you have one; check fire extinguisher gauges; check the furnace filter and change it every 1–3 months.

WHAT IS THIN, AND WHY

I skipped *The Practical Family Compound* because only a cover was on hand, not an interior. That is why some months — especially May and July — have a shorter Build list. The golf-simulator book does not give a month-by-month construction calendar; where it appears, it is only the Appendix F maintenance rhythm, for a room already in use. Calculators, scenario cards, and the Offline Paper Kit are not treated as live tools on these pages.

The rink calendar in Appendix G is written for a place with a reliably cold winter, roughly the northern United States and southern Canada. If your winter starts later or ends earlier, slide everything to match. The point is the order, not the exact dates.

This calendar is a planning aid. Months are general guides, not promises. Weather, climate, local rules, and your household will differ. Rink timing depends on a real stretch of cold where you live, not on the printed month. This is not a guarantee of readiness, ice, or results.

MEMBERS VAULT · DO THIS MONTH

Year at a glance

[YEAR] — a planning map, not a promise

Three kinds of task, kept short: **C** Check, **R** Restock, **B** Build or practice. The monthly pages have the full wording and the book each line comes from.

JANUARY
- C Vents, ice dams, monthly alarms
- C Furnace filter
- R Eat and replace pantry food
- B Winter test outage
- B Rink: shovel and thin coats

FEBRUARY
- C Vents and ice dams
- C Heat 55°F+ if away
- R Running-low list
- B Order seeds, plan garden
- B Rink: same winter care

MARCH
- C Twice-a-year household check
- C Full pantry and water rotation
- R Bleach and the shopping list
- B Family practice night
- B Rink: late-winter ice, then call it

APRIL
- C Roof, gutters, sump
- C Smokehouse after winter
- B Garden, seeds, last frost date
- B Rink: drain, liner, store boards

MAY
- C Service the air conditioning
- C Storm plan if storm country
- B Simulator seasonal checks, if you have one

JUNE
- C 0–5 ft wildfire zone
- C Fans and cooling centers
- R Preserve garden surplus
- B Smokehouse: early fires, shade

JULY
- C Dryer vent to the outside
- R Order or stack firewood
- R Keep putting food up
- B Smokehouse mid-season scrub

AUGUST
- C Finish summer house list
- R Firewood if still open
- B Decide: is this a rink year?

SEPTEMBER
- C Furnace and chimney
- C Weatherstripping
- R Propane and heating fuel
- B Fall smoking season

OCTOBER
- C Hoses and outdoor faucets
- C Generator fuel and oil
- R Vehicle winter kit
- B Rink: measure, order liner and lumber

NOVEMBER
- C Twice-a-year check again
- C Gutters and rain barrels
- R Water rotation
- B Practice night, once at night
- B Rink: frame before the ground freezes

DECEMBER
- C Heat, vents, ice dams
- R Finish the winter car kit
- B Winter test outage
- B Fifteen Minutes Tonight
- B Rink: fill only in a real cold stretch

This calendar is a planning aid. Months are general guides, not promises. Weather, climate, local rules, and your household will differ. Rink timing depends on a real stretch of cold where you live, not on the printed month. This is not a guarantee of readiness, ice, or results.

MEMBERS VAULT · DO THIS MONTH

January

Deep winter

This month's aim. Midwinter is for the monthly checks, for snow and ice around the house, and for using the room or the rink you already built — not for starting a new outdoor project.

Every month, from The Practical Self-Reliance Handbook, Appendix H: test smoke and CO alarms; start the generator and run it 20–30 minutes under load, if you have one; check fire extinguisher gauges; check the furnace filter and change it every 1–3 months.

CHECK

- [ ] The every-month list: smoke and CO alarms, generator under load if you have one, extinguisher gauges, and the furnace filter. (The Practical Self-Reliance Handbook, Appendix H)
- [ ] Keep snow cleared from furnace and dryer vents and the generator area. Watch for ice dams on the roof. (Appendix H)

RESTOCK

- [ ] Use and replace what you actually eat from the pantry, first in, first out. This is not a full twice-a-year check — that waits for the clock change. (The Practical Long-Term Pantry, Chapter 12)

BUILD OR PRACTICE

- [ ] If you have not yet run a winter test outage, this is a good window. Keep it small and planned. (Self-Reliance Handbook, Appendix H)
- [ ] If you have a golf simulator, Appendix F's monthly list is short: clean the hitting area and mat, inspect the screen, and check for software updates.

RINK WINDOW

Shovel after every snow, as soon as it stops falling. Resurface on calm, cold nights, in thin coats. Stay off the ice during thaws, and leave light snow on it to insulate. Skip resurfacing on the very coldest nights. Check the boards on the deep end after big temperature swings. Enjoy it — this is what the rest of the year was for. (The Backyard Ice Rink, Appendix G)

Use this window only if a backyard rink is actually in your plan, and only with a real stretch of cold. This is not a flood-this-week instruction and not a promise of ice.

Pairs with. *The Backyard Ice Rink; The Practical Self-Reliance Handbook*

NOTES _____

DONE ON _____

MEMBERS VAULT · DO THIS MONTH

February

Deep winter

This month's aim. The same winter rhythm continues. If you start thinking about the garden, stay on the book's winter list: order seeds and plan, rather than working frozen ground.

Every month, from The Practical Self-Reliance Handbook, Appendix H: test smoke and CO alarms; start the generator and run it 20–30 minutes under load, if you have one; check fire extinguisher gauges; check the furnace filter and change it every 1–3 months.

CHECK

- [ ] Repeat the every-month alarm, generator, extinguisher, and filter checks. (Self-Reliance Handbook, Appendix H)
- [ ] Keep snow off vents and the generator area, and keep watching for ice dams. (Appendix H)
- [ ] When you are away, the handbook says to keep the heat at 55°F or higher. That figure is the book's, not a new rule. (Appendix H)

RESTOCK

- [ ] Glance at the "running low" and "use soon" lists on the pantry door, if you keep them, before the next grocery trip. (The Practical Long-Term Pantry, Chapter 12)

BUILD OR PRACTICE

- [ ] Order seeds and plan the spring garden. Look up your own last frost date later, in spring — do not use a date from this page. (Self-Reliance Handbook, Appendix H)

RINK WINDOW

The book keeps January and February on the same deep-winter list. Shovel, resurface in thin coats on calm cold nights, stay off it during thaws, and skip the very coldest nights. Check the deep-end boards after big temperature swings. (Appendix G)

Use this window only if a backyard rink is actually in your plan, and only with a real stretch of cold. This is not a flood-this-week instruction and not a promise of ice.

Pairs with. *The Practical Self-Reliance Handbook; The Backyard Ice Rink*

NOTES _____

DONE ON _____

MEMBERS VAULT · DO THIS MONTH

March

The clock-change check, and late winter ice

This month's aim. When the clocks change, do the full household and pantry check. If you still have a rink, treat the ice as late winter, not as a promise that the season will last all month.

Every month, from The Practical Self-Reliance Handbook, Appendix H: test smoke and CO alarms; start the generator and run it 20–30 minutes under load, if you have one; check fire extinguisher gauges; check the furnace filter and change it every 1–3 months.

CHECK

- [ ] Twice-a-year check: water, pantry, batteries, generator, first aid, go-bags, and the contact sheet. (Self-Reliance Handbook, Appendix H and Chapter 25)
- [ ] Full pantry check: every container for dents, bulges, rust, leaks, broken seals, and pest signs; dates; inventory; short-life items such as baking powder, yeast, and oils. If a can or jar is bulging, leaking, spurting, or smells bad, throw it out safely. Never taste it to check. (The Practical Long-Term Pantry, Chapter 12)
- [ ] Use the Offline Advantage Appendix C supply checklists to check kits twice a year, starting with what you already own.

RESTOCK

- [ ] Rotate self-stored water — the pantry book uses the clock change as the reminder — and replace emergency bleach with a fresh, unopened bottle. Make a shopping list from what the check actually found. (Pantry, Chapters 7 and 12; Self-Reliance, Appendix H)

BUILD OR PRACTICE

- [ ] Hold a calm family practice night with What Would We Do If...?. The book asks for practice twice a year, once at night. This can be one of those two.
- [ ] If you live in storm country, check the hurricane and storm plan. (Self-Reliance Handbook, Appendix H)

RINK WINDOW

Late winter: skate in the mornings, when the ice is firm. Stop resurfacing once afternoons are regularly above freezing. Watch small children closely as the rink starts to melt and hold standing water. Decide when to call it — end on a good skate, not a week of slush. Spring take-down often starts in March or April; there is a separate window on the April page. (Appendix G)

Use this window only if a backyard rink is actually in your plan, and only with a real stretch of cold. This is not a flood-this-week instruction and not a promise of ice.

Pairs with. *The Practical Long-Term Pantry; The Practical Self-Reliance Handbook; What Would We Do If...?; The Backyard Ice Rink*

NOTES _____

DONE ON _____

MEMBERS VAULT · DO THIS MONTH

April

Spring take-down and winter damage

This month's aim. Spring is for looking over what winter did to the house, the roof, and — if you built one — the smokehouse and the rink, before you start new fires or leave a liner on the grass.

Every month, from The Practical Self-Reliance Handbook, Appendix H: test smoke and CO alarms; start the generator and run it 20–30 minutes under load, if you have one; check fire extinguisher gauges; check the furnace filter and change it every 1–3 months.

CHECK

- [ ] Inspect the roof for winter damage. Clean gutters and downspouts; reconnect rain barrels. Test the sump pump by pouring water into the pit. (Self-Reliance Handbook, Appendix H)
- [ ] If you have a smokehouse, look for winter damage before the first fire. Then do the every-season checks: door gasket, hinges, latch, vents, dampers, roof, heat shields, propane hoses, and clear brush around the building. (Building Your Backyard Smokehouse, Chapter 25 and Appendix G)

RESTOCK

- [ ] Finish any shopping list left from the March pantry check. Do not invent a spring stockpile target.

BUILD OR PRACTICE

- [ ] Plan the garden; start seeds; look up your last frost date for where you actually live. Service the lawn mower and garden tools. (Self-Reliance Handbook, Appendix H)

RINK WINDOW

Spring take-down (March–April): drain the rink with a pump to a safe spot. Remove the liner as soon as the water is out, before it cooks the grass. Number the boards, check them for damage, and store them dry and off the ground. Bag and label the brackets and hardware. Write your notes for next year and tape them to the bag: fill date, liner size, problem spots, and what you'd change. Let the lawn recover. Rake it lightly once it's dry, and reseed any patches still bare in late spring. (Appendix G)

Use this window only if a backyard rink is actually in your plan, and only with a real stretch of cold. This is not a flood-this-week instruction and not a promise of ice.

Pairs with. *The Backyard Ice Rink; The Practical Self-Reliance Handbook; Building Your Backyard Smokehouse*

NOTES _____

DONE ON _____

MEMBERS VAULT · DO THIS MONTH

May

Late spring

This month's aim. Finish the spring household list. This is one of the thinner months in this calendar: The Practical Family Compound is not in the source set, so there is no compound-building list here.

Every month, from The Practical Self-Reliance Handbook, Appendix H: test smoke and CO alarms; start the generator and run it 20–30 minutes under load, if you have one; check fire extinguisher gauges; check the furnace filter and change it every 1–3 months.

CHECK

- [ ] Service air conditioning; clean or replace filters. (Self-Reliance Handbook, Appendix H)
- [ ] If you live in storm country and did not review the hurricane and storm plan in March, do it now. (Appendix H)
- [ ] The every-month alarm, generator, extinguisher, and filter checks still apply.

RESTOCK

- [ ] Keep rotating what you eat. No new quantity targets belong on this page.

BUILD OR PRACTICE

- [ ] If you have a golf simulator, Appendix F's seasonal list is the one to use: inspect heating and cooling, check weather sealing on doors and windows, verify lighting, and clean the projector lens and filters if that applies.

Pairs with. *The Practical Self-Reliance Handbook*

NOTES _____

DONE ON _____

MEMBERS VAULT · DO THIS MONTH

June

Summer

This month's aim. Summer is for shade, clearing the close brush if you live in wildfire country, and being honest about how a smokehouse behaves in afternoon sun.

Every month, from The Practical Self-Reliance Handbook, Appendix H: test smoke and CO alarms; start the generator and run it 20–30 minutes under load, if you have one; check fire extinguisher gauges; check the furnace filter and change it every 1–3 months.

CHECK

- [ ] Clear brush and keep the 0–5 foot zone clear if you live in wildfire country. Check window fans and battery fans. Find your nearest cooling centers. (Self-Reliance Handbook, Appendix H)
- [ ] If you smoke in summer: easy fires, but it is hard to hold low temperatures in afternoon sun, and this is not the cold-smoking season. Start early. Shade helps. Do the every-season gasket, vent, and roof checks if you skipped them in spring. (Smokehouse, Chapter 25 and Appendix G)

RESTOCK

- [ ] Preserve garden surplus as it comes in, rather than waiting for a single canning weekend. (Self-Reliance Handbook, Appendix H)

BUILD OR PRACTICE

- [ ] A short What If reminder if the power goes out in the heat: keep the fridge and freezer closed. The book's figures are about four hours for the fridge, about 48 hours for a full freezer, and about 24 hours for a half-full one. Those are the book's numbers, not a guarantee. (What Would We Do If...?)

Pairs with. *The Practical Self-Reliance Handbook; Building Your Backyard Smokehouse; What Would We Do If...?*

NOTES _____

DONE ON _____

MEMBERS VAULT · DO THIS MONTH

July

Summer

This month's aim. Keep the summer list moving. Order or stack firewood now so it can dry. This month is also thinner on new builds, because no Family Compound interior was on hand.

Every month, from The Practical Self-Reliance Handbook, Appendix H: test smoke and CO alarms; start the generator and run it 20–30 minutes under load, if you have one; check fire extinguisher gauges; check the furnace filter and change it every 1–3 months.

CHECK

- [ ] Clean the dryer vent all the way to the outside. (Self-Reliance Handbook, Appendix H)
- [ ] Keep the 0–5 foot wildfire zone clear if that is your country. Repeat the every-month checks.

RESTOCK

- [ ] Order firewood so it can dry, or stack and cover what you have. (Appendix H)
- [ ] Keep preserving garden surplus, and eat what you put up. (Appendix H; The Practical Long-Term Pantry)

BUILD OR PRACTICE

- [ ] A few times a year, pull and scrub smokehouse racks, scrape heavy flaky buildup, check the stack and screens, and check thermometers in ice water. Midsummer is a fair window if you have been smoking. (Smokehouse, Appendix G)

Pairs with. *The Practical Self-Reliance Handbook; Building Your Backyard Smokehouse; The Practical Long-Term Pantry*

NOTES _____

DONE ON _____

MEMBERS VAULT · DO THIS MONTH

August

Late summer

This month's aim. If a backyard rink is even on the table, the book starts with a decision in late summer, not with a liner in December. For everyone else, this is still a summer maintenance month.

Every month, from The Practical Self-Reliance Handbook, Appendix H: test smoke and CO alarms; start the generator and run it 20–30 minutes under load, if you have one; check fire extinguisher gauges; check the furnace filter and change it every 1–3 months.

CHECK

- [ ] The every-month checks still apply. Finish any leftover summer wildfire, fan, or dryer-vent items.
- [ ] If you have a smokehouse, this is still summer fire weather: start early, and do not count on holding a low temperature in afternoon sun. (Chapter 25)

RESTOCK

- [ ] If firewood is not yet ordered or stacked, do it so it can dry. (Self-Reliance Handbook, Appendix H)

BUILD OR PRACTICE

- [ ] Read Chapter 1 of The Backyard Ice Rink and decide whether this is the year, before you buy lumber. The cost worksheet is in that book's Appendix E.

RINK WINDOW

Late summer (August–September), for a place with a reliably cold winter — roughly the northern United States and southern Canada. If your winter starts later or ends earlier, slide everything to match. The point is the order, not the exact dates. Decide. Check your town's average January high and low. Walk the yard and note where the sun falls in the afternoon; the winter sun is much lower and further south, so a spot that's shaded in August may be in full sun in January. Read HOA rules, if you have them, and call your insurance company (Chapter 11). Fill in the cost worksheet in Appendix E. This is a decision month, not a flooding month.

Use this window only if a backyard rink is actually in your plan, and only with a real stretch of cold. This is not a flood-this-week instruction and not a promise of ice.

Pairs with. *The Backyard Ice Rink; The Practical Self-Reliance Handbook*

NOTES _____

DONE ON _____

MEMBERS VAULT · DO THIS MONTH

September

Fall begins

This month's aim. Fall in the handbook runs September through November. You do not have to do the whole list this month. Start the heating-season items, and finish a rink decision if you deferred it in August.

Every month, from The Practical Self-Reliance Handbook, Appendix H: test smoke and CO alarms; start the generator and run it 20–30 minutes under load, if you have one; check fire extinguisher gauges; check the furnace filter and change it every 1–3 months.

CHECK

- [ ] Begin the fall list: have the furnace serviced and the chimney inspected when you can get the appointment. Check weatherstripping and door sweeps. (Self-Reliance Handbook, Appendix H)
- [ ] The twice-a-year household and pantry check belongs with the November clock change. You can start a list now; you do not have to run the full check twice in one season.

RESTOCK

- [ ] Refill propane and heating fuel. (Appendix H)

BUILD OR PRACTICE

- [ ] Fall is a good smoking season in the smokehouse book: mild days for hot smoking, cool nights for cold smoking. Do the every-season checks before a heavy stretch of use. (Smokehouse, Chapter 25 and Appendix G)

RINK WINDOW

If you decided this is a rink year, the book still treats August–September as the decide-and-plan window. Measuring, ordering the liner, and buying lumber are on the October page. Do not lay a liner because the month name is getting later. (Appendix G)

Use this window only if a backyard rink is actually in your plan, and only with a real stretch of cold. This is not a flood-this-week instruction and not a promise of ice.

Pairs with. *The Practical Self-Reliance Handbook; Building Your Backyard Smokehouse; The Backyard Ice Rink*

NOTES _____

DONE ON _____

MEMBERS VAULT · DO THIS MONTH

October

Early fall

This month's aim. For a rink household, October is often when the slope is still soft enough to stake and when liners are still in stock. For everyone else, keep moving through the fall house list.

Every month, from The Practical Self-Reliance Handbook, Appendix H: test smoke and CO alarms; start the generator and run it 20–30 minutes under load, if you have one; check fire extinguisher gauges; check the furnace filter and change it every 1–3 months.

CHECK

- [ ] Disconnect hoses; shut off and drain outdoor faucets before hard freezes. (Self-Reliance Handbook, Appendix H)
- [ ] Test the generator; stabilize fuel; stock oil and filters, if you did not already. (Appendix H)
- [ ] Update the vehicle winter kit; have the car battery tested. (Appendix H)

RESTOCK

- [ ] Finish propane and heating-fuel refills if they are still open. (Appendix H)

BUILD OR PRACTICE

- [ ] If you have a golf simulator, use Appendix F's seasonal checks as the weather turns: HVAC, weather sealing, lighting, and projector filters.

RINK WINDOW

Early fall (October): measure the slope while the ground is still soft and easy to stake (Chapter 2). Fill in the calculator worksheet in Appendix D: board height, liner size, and gallons. Order the liner and any brackets — good rink liners often sell out by December. Buy or order lumber; ask the lumberyard to deliver if you're building alone. Mow the rink area short before the grass goes dormant. Remove sticks and rocks. Check your water source: find out whether outdoor taps will be shut off for winter, and plan an indoor tap and adapter if so. If you're on a well, plan to fill in sessions. (Appendix G)

Use this window only if a backyard rink is actually in your plan, and only with a real stretch of cold. This is not a flood-this-week instruction and not a promise of ice.

Pairs with. *The Backyard Ice Rink; The Practical Self-Reliance Handbook*

NOTES _____

DONE ON _____

MEMBERS VAULT · DO THIS MONTH

November

The second clock-change check, and late fall

This month's aim. The November clock change is the second twice-a-year check. If this is a rink year, the book wants the frame in before the ground freezes, and the liner held until a real stretch of cold is coming.

Every month, from The Practical Self-Reliance Handbook, Appendix H: test smoke and CO alarms; start the generator and run it 20–30 minutes under load, if you have one; check fire extinguisher gauges; check the furnace filter and change it every 1–3 months.

CHECK

- [ ] Twice-a-year check again: water, pantry, batteries, generator, first aid, go-bags, and the contact sheet. (Self-Reliance Handbook, Appendix H and Chapter 25)
- [ ] Full pantry check and water rotation, the same way as March. Replace emergency bleach if it is time. (The Practical Long-Term Pantry, Chapters 7 and 12)
- [ ] Clean gutters after leaves drop; drain and store rain barrels before hard freezes. (Appendix H)
- [ ] Check kits with the Offline Advantage Appendix C lists. Update the Appendix A emergency contact list if it has been a year.

RESTOCK

- [ ] Rotate self-stored water. Use the old water for the garden, houseplants, or cleaning, then refill. Make a shopping list from the check. (Pantry, Chapters 7 and 12)

BUILD OR PRACTICE

- [ ] The second calm family practice of the year, if you did the first in March. What Would We Do If...? asks for practice twice a year, once at night.

RINK WINDOW

Late fall (November): build the frame before the ground freezes, so stakes and rebar go in easily (Chapter 3). Brace the deep end more than you think you need. Pad and protect: fill gaps under the boards, cover screw tips, and cap the board tops (Chapter 4). Build your resurfacer (Chapter 7) and gather tools (Chapter 8). Hang lights, if you're using them, on GFCI-protected power (Chapter 10). Watch the long-range forecast. Don't lay the liner until you see a cold stretch coming. (Appendix G)

Use this window only if a backyard rink is actually in your plan, and only with a real stretch of cold. This is not a flood-this-week instruction and not a promise of ice.

Pairs with. *The Practical Long-Term Pantry; The Practical Self-Reliance Handbook; What Would We Do If...?; The Backyard Ice Rink; The Offline Advantage*

NOTES _____

DONE ON _____

MEMBERS VAULT · DO THIS MONTH

December

Early winter

This month's aim. December is early winter in the rink book, not a holiday deadline. For the house, it is the start of the winter list: heat, vents, and a planned test outage.

Every month, from The Practical Self-Reliance Handbook, Appendix H: test smoke and CO alarms; start the generator and run it 20–30 minutes under load, if you have one; check fire extinguisher gauges; check the furnace filter and change it every 1–3 months.

CHECK

- [ ] Keep heat at 55°F or higher when away. Keep snow cleared from furnace and dryer vents and the generator area. Watch for ice dams. (Self-Reliance Handbook, Appendix H)
- [ ] The every-month alarm, generator, extinguisher, and filter checks still apply.

RESTOCK

- [ ] If the vehicle winter kit is still thin, finish it now. (Appendix H, fall list, carried forward)

BUILD OR PRACTICE

- [ ] Run a winter test outage if you did not do it yet. (Appendix H)
- [ ] If you have not done Fifteen Minutes Tonight from What Would We Do If...?, this is a quiet night to do those five things: a flashlight in every bedroom, five phone numbers written down, find your shutoffs, fill a few water jugs, and turn on emergency alerts.

RINK WINDOW

Early winter (December): lay the liner on a calm day right before filling, using the rolling method (Chapter 4). Fill at the start of a stretch of at least five cold days (Chapter 5). Stay off it for the first several days, and follow the first-week schedule in Appendix C. Do the walking test before the first skate (Chapter 6). Start thin resurfacing coats once the base is solid. Start the season log in Appendix H. Flood only when that stretch of cold is actually in the forecast — not because the month name, or a holiday, says so. If your winter starts later, slide this. (Appendix G)

Use this window only if a backyard rink is actually in your plan, and only with a real stretch of cold. This is not a flood-this-week instruction and not a promise of ice.

Pairs with. *The Backyard Ice Rink; The Practical Self-Reliance Handbook; What Would We Do If...?*

NOTES _____

DONE ON _____

MEMBERS VAULT · DO THIS MONTH

Our household dates

A blank list, plus the once-a-year checks

Write the dates that actually belong to your household. Leave a line blank if it does not apply.

OUR TWICE-A-YEAR CHECK DATES (OFTEN THE CLOCK CHANGES) _____

LAST FROST DATE, LOOKED UP FOR OUR PLACE _____

FIRST FROST DATE, LOOKED UP FOR OUR PLACE _____

RINK: LINER SIZE, FILL DATE, PROBLEM SPOTS (FROM LAST SEASON'S NOTES) _____

INSURANCE REVIEW DATE _____

GENERATOR TEST REMINDER _____

FAMILY PRACTICE DATES _____

OTHER HOUSEHOLD DATES _____

ONCE A YEAR — PICK A MONTH THAT FITS

The Self-Reliance Handbook lists these as once-a-year tasks in Appendix H, without assigning them to a printed month. Do not treat the order below as a required calendar.

- [ ] Flush the water heater
- [ ] Clean refrigerator coils
- [ ] Test well water
- [ ] Have pressure canner dial gauge tested
- [ ] Review insurance policies
- [ ] Replace emergency bleach (also part of the twice-a-year pantry check)
- [ ] Review the emergency information sheet (Self-Reliance Handbook, Appendix G) and the Offline Advantage contact list (Appendix A, update every year)
- [ ] Check smoke and CO alarm dates; replace any past their date
- [ ] If you have a golf simulator, Appendix F's annual list: deep clean, inspect electrical connections, evaluate mat and turf, inspect the screen, and review upgrades

The method, the why, and the full checklists stay in the books: The Practical Self-Reliance Handbook, The Backyard Ice Rink, The Practical Long-Term Pantry, What Would We Do If...?, Building Your Backyard Smokehouse, and The Offline Advantage. When the work is a tracker, a kit, or a build, open the matching Members Vault tool.