MEMBERS VAULT

Start Here

Four short paths. Pick one. You do not have to finish all four.

Welcome. You do not need to work through everything in the Vault. Pick one path that matches the book you already have and the week you actually have. Each path is a short, ordered sequence — which tool to open, which book to keep beside it, and what "good enough for now" looks like. You are not behind if you only do one. You are not behind if you skip a step that does not fit. The point is a calm start, not a finished household.

IF YOU WANT… START HERE

If you want	Start here	What you will use
A first 30-day pantry	**Your first 30-day pantry**	The Practical Long-Term Pantry and the Pantry Tracker
To start a backyard build	**Your first backyard build**	The backyard-build book you own, and its Build Plan
A calm family practice night	**Your first family practice night**	What Would We Do If…? and the Household Kit
To get ready for a rink season	**Your first rink season**	The Backyard Ice Rink and the Rink Build Plan

These paths are suggested starting orders, not a guarantee of readiness and not a required curriculum.

BUILT, NOT JUST WRITTEN.

MEMBERS VAULT · START HERE

Your first 30-day pantry

A short path, not a year of food in a weekend

WHO THIS IS FOR

You have *The Practical Long-Term Pantry*, or you want to see what is already in the house before you buy more. This path is about a clear picture of a first 30 days, not a finished one-year store.

THE PATH, IN ORDER

1. Open the Practical Field Library and find the pantry row, so you know which tool you are reaching for.
2. Download the 30-Day Shelter Pantry Tracker — the PDF, the spreadsheet, or both — and fill in what you already have, not what you wish you had.
3. Read the book's stages in order. Stage One is about two weeks of food you already eat. Do not skip ahead to a year supply because the title sounds larger.
4. Use the Practical Household Kit alongside the tracker if water, light, or a first-evening plan is part of the same gap.
5. Open the Water, Food, and Power Calculators if you want a planning estimate. They use the books' own figures, and every result is labeled as an estimate. Do not invent a calorie number the pantry book does not give.
6. Put a first twice-a-year check on the Seasonal "Do This Month" Calendar. The pantry book uses the clock change as the reminder to rotate water and walk the shelves.

THE TOOL TO OPEN

The 30-Day Shelter Pantry Tracker, and the Practical Field Library so you can find it again. The Practical Household Kit if the first evening is part of the same job.

THE BOOK TO KEEP BESIDE IT

The Practical Long-Term Pantry. *The Practical Backyard Bunker* only if this pantry is specifically for that shelter.

GOOD ENOUGH FOR NOW

You can see what you already have, you have a short, honest list of what is left to stock, and you know when you will rotate. You do not need a finished year pantry to be done with this path.

When you want the next thing. Stay with *The Practical Long-Term Pantry*. When you want a rhythm rather than a stocking project, open the Seasonal Calendar.

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MEMBERS VAULT · START HERE

Your first backyard build

One book, one site, the matching plan — not all four projects

WHO THIS IS FOR

You already own one backyard-build book — *The Practical Backyard Bunker*, *The Backyard Ice Rink*, *Building Your Backyard Smokehouse*, or *Building Your Backyard Golf Simulator* — and you want to start that project, not collect a second one.

THE PATH, IN ORDER

1. Pick the one book and the one site you actually have. Start here only if this is that book.
2. Open the matching Backyard Build Plan from the Field Library: bunker, rink, smokehouse, or golf simulator. Use that plan, not a blank sheet.
3. Read the book's permit, safety, and — where the book says so — licensed-electrician chapters before you buy materials or break ground. The questions on the plan sheets are questions, not a sign-off.
4. Do the first session or first phase only. The bunker plan follows Appendix D over weeks, not two-day weekends. The smokehouse plan follows the book's build order, including slab cure time. The golf plan follows the chapter order; that book is not a weekend sequence. The rink plan has a real one-adult weekend for a typical 20 × 40 frame, and a later filling day when a real stretch of cold is in the forecast.
5. Write down the "done when" line before you start the next session. Do not invent dimensions or skip a professional the book tells you to call.

THE TOOL TO OPEN

The matching Backyard Build Plan for the book you own. The Practical Field Library is the index that gets you there.

THE BOOK TO KEEP BESIDE IT

The backyard-build book you actually own, in italics on the plan's cover. Do not start a second project in parallel because the library lists four plans.

GOOD ENOUGH FOR NOW

You have a written plan from the book, the first session is under way or honestly scheduled, and the permit or electrician questions have been asked where the book requires them. The building does not have to be finished for this path to be complete.

When you want the next thing. Keep the book and the plan together until the project is done. For later upkeep, use the Seasonal Calendar where it points back to that project.

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MEMBERS VAULT · START HERE

Your first family practice night

About twenty minutes, not a drill

WHO THIS IS FOR

A household that wants one calm practice, not a scary scenario and not a full preparedness course. You will use *What Would We Do If...?* and the Practical Household Kit.

THE PATH, IN ORDER

1. Set a short evening. Twenty minutes is enough. Tell everyone this is a practice, not an emergency.
2. If you have not already, do "Fifteen Minutes Tonight" from *What Would We Do If...?*: a flashlight in every bedroom, five phone numbers written down, find the gas, water, and electrical shutoffs, fill a few water jugs, and turn on emergency alerts.
3. Open the Practical Household Kit and walk the room-by-room gap list at a calm pace. Mark what you already have. Leave blank what you do not. This is a picture, not a score.
4. Pick one practical question from the book — not the most frightening chapter — and talk through it together. Where would we meet? Who is the out-of-town contact? What would we do if the power went out this evening?
5. Family Scenario Cards can be the prompt for this night or a later one. Pick one or two cards that match the household. The Offline Paper Kit is the print-and-file set for the contact list, a blank area map, and a document checklist — write on the printed pages, and keep them in the house.
6. Put two practice dates on the Seasonal "Do This Month" Calendar. The book asks for practice twice a year, once at night. March and November, around the clock change, are already marked as a natural window.

THE TOOL TO OPEN

The Practical Household Kit, the Family Scenario Cards, and the Offline Paper Kit for the paper contact list and plan. The Seasonal Calendar holds the next practice date.

THE BOOK TO KEEP BESIDE IT

What Would We Do If...? The Offline Advantage is the natural companion for the contact list and the family resilience plan, if you have it.

GOOD ENOUGH FOR NOW

Flashlights are where you can reach them in the dark, five numbers are on a card and on the fridge, you know where the shutoffs are, and you have had one short, calm conversation. That is a complete first practice night.

When you want the next thing. Stay with *What Would We Do If...?*. Come back to the Household Kit when you want to close a gap you already marked, and to the Seasonal Calendar when the second practice of the year comes around.

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MEMBERS VAULT · START HERE

Your first rink season

Get the frame ready, then wait for a real stretch of cold

WHO THIS IS FOR

You have *The Backyard Ice Rink*, and you want a first season. This path will not give you a date when the ice will be ready, and it will not tell you to flood because a holiday is coming.

THE PATH, IN ORDER

1. Read Chapter 1 and decide whether this is the year. Check your town's average January high and low. Walk the yard. Call about HOA rules and insurance if those apply. Fill in the cost worksheet in Appendix E before you buy lumber.
2. Open the Backyard Build Plan for *The Backyard Ice Rink*. It uses Appendix J's realistic one-adult weekend for a typical 20 × 40 Layout 2 frame, and a later filling day. Use those sheets with the book, not instead of it.
3. Follow the book's season order, not the holiday calendar. Late summer is for deciding. October is often when you measure the slope, order the liner — good liners often sell out by December — and buy lumber. November is often when you build the frame, before the ground freezes, and hold the liner until a cold stretch is actually coming.
4. Fill only at the start of a stretch of at least five cold days, which is the book's own rule, and only where you live. Stay off the ice for the first several days. If your winter starts later, slide everything to match. The point is the order, not the exact dates.
5. Keep the Seasonal "Do This Month" Calendar open through the season. The rink notes live in a clearly marked window on the late-summer through spring pages. Use them as prompts, then go back to Appendix G in the book.

THE TOOL TO OPEN

The Backyard Build Plan for *The Backyard Ice Rink*, and the Seasonal "Do This Month" Calendar for the month-by-month window.

THE BOOK TO KEEP BESIDE IT

The Backyard Ice Rink — especially Chapter 1, Chapters 3 through 6, Appendix G, Appendix J, and the first-week schedule in Appendix C.

GOOD ENOUGH FOR NOW

You have decided honestly, the frame is ready or scheduled before the ground freezes, and you have a plan to wait for a real stretch of cold. Ice by a certain date is not the finish line for this path.

When you want the next thing. Stay with *The Backyard Ice Rink*. When the season ends, use the spring take-down notes in the calendar and in Appendix G, and write next year's liner size and fill date on the last page.

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