

A Long-Term Survival Guide – Make An Instant Improvised Lamp:



This little lamp can be made in seconds, without using any tools.

One way to produce light when the power is off, is to make your own improvised oil lamps. Any small metal can, such as single-serving cans of fruit, soup, stew, Vienna sausages, etc, can easily be made into an oil lamp, by pinching one (or both) sides together, to form a simple spout, that will hold a crude wick. In fact, aluminum cans are so soft that they can be shaped by hand almost instantly, without using any tools at all. The only items you need to make this little lamp are a can of Vienna sausages, a small bottle of olive oil, and a cotton rag, so you may already have all three items in your kitchen.



Double-wick lamps like this one produce twice as much light as single-wick versions.

With light cans such as these, it is a good idea to add some sand (or small stones) to them, to give them some weight, so they don't get blown over, or knocked over. The wick in this example is just strips torn from a cotton shop rag, and pinched in the spouts. Olive oil is the best fuel, because olive oil will not burn without a wick, so even if you knock the can over, it is hard to start a fire. But any liquid fuel can be used with an improvised lamp like this. (The labels should also be peeled off the cans, for safety.) You can make many similar kinds of improvised oil lamps, using cans, bottles, shot glasses, clay, or hollowed-out stones, and wicks made from cotton cloth, or cotton-ball fiber. Here are a few examples:



Can Lamp



Bottle Lamp



Shot-Glass Lamp



Clay Lamp



Stone Lamp