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The Don't Die Out There! Deck



Synopsis

When heading into the outdoors, you chose multipurpose gear whenever possible--bonus points for equipment that's both functional and fun. You can't do better than The Don't Die Out There Deck, a compact deck of playing cards that tucks easily into any backpack or pocket. From construction of emergency shelters and evacuation techniques to how to care for someone with a fracture or construct a solar still, your poker hand contains basic survival tips that could prove lifesaving! The Don't Die Out There Deck makes a great gift for anyone who spends time in the outdoors. Topics are organized by card suit--Diamonds: survival essentials, signals, locating your position, and shelters; Spades: assessing the situation, water, fire, food, and evacuation techniques; Hearts: basic first aid, hypothermia, frostbite, heat illness, and sprains and dislocations; Clubs: CPR, head and spine injuries, fractures, bites and stings, and evacuating the injured

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Customer Reviews

CHRISTOPHER VAN TILBURG, M.D., is author of the Emergency Survival and First Aid pocket guides, the references from which the survival content is drawn.

I haven't yet decided whether or not to return the three decks I bought. I purchased one deck each for our two backpacking/72 hour kit setups and one deck to keep in and use in our camper. The idea behind these playing cards is genius, unfortunately the quality may not be up to par. I am multi-purpose minded, so if I take a game (playing cards) in a backpack, it must have another

purpose (survival tips in this case). I give a rating of 3 due to the "playability" of the cards. **QUALITY:** These are not your well known plastic coated Bicycle Poker/Playing Cards. While the card stock is very similar in dimension and thickness, the plastic coating is not so good. They miss the mark when compared to the thicker, and cross-hatch pattern plastic coating of standard Bicycle Playing/Poker Cards. The cards are much more comparable to an UNO deck, or to some other child's card games. Of course they are "playable", just not as smooth to manipulate, and this may be a show-stopper for some card players, maybe for me. **CONTENT:** Wilderness Survival is mostly mindset, pre-study, and at least some experience. Many of us can't apply all three at once, and sometimes not even one in a given situation. That is why the idea is so genius. Put a deck in the camper and play (and learn) while out in nature. Generate an idea to try, then build a little experience while right there out in the right environment. Therefore, by nature, some survival tips are related to pre-study, establishing mindset, etc. Most of these tips are pre-study and preparation. That's why if the card's physical **QUALITY** were better, I'd rate a 5 instead of a three. For \$7.00 a deck, I expect better. What seems to be missing are: additional Ground to Air markings/signals or Evacuation Route Trail markings, Whistle Blast signals, Morse Code table, Snare diagrams; maybe I could think of others. **BOTTOM LINE.** Great idea, not a BAD product, could be improved in both quality of deck (more professional plastic coating), and content of information.

This is an amazing deck of cards that covers a wide variety of survival topics, with each card focusing on a small area of survival (categorized by suit). Each card contains concise information, and allows you to learn useful tidbits one card at a time, and allows for a dual purpose use when backpacking (takes less space than a guide + cards). Topics include things like:- Basic Shelters- Splints & Basic First Aid- Building a Solar Still (for water purification)- Treating a Snake Bite- Dealing with different climate conditions- Basic Survival Kits And a lot more. But one thing I have to say, is if you only have one deck, don't just stuff them in a bag! Play with them regularly. There are a lot of tips on here that in a survival situation you don't have time to stop and read. The best way to learn from this deck is to use it regularly, reading occasionally as the cards are in your hand. Either that, or buy a couple decks so you can have one in your bag and one to play with. These are way too valuable a resource to let get dusty in a pack somewhere!

These are fun and full of helpful information. Honestly, I am not someone whom is faced with extreme outdoors, but I do like these cards. The cards are heavy duty and a real conversation piece when playing with family. Of course, most or all of the information in the cards is covered in survival

books, but these cards make it easy to mentally brush up on the information whilst awaiting your turn during a game. My nieces and nephews found them to be very "cool" during our family reunion.

It's a really clever idea to combine survival info with a deck of playing cards. Pastimes are essential for weathering a storm; however, this deck compromised too much. To me, this deck fails, both as playing cards and as a survival reference. As playing cards, the numbers and suits are tiny and pushed too far into the corners, and the color coding is unfamiliar. As a survival reference, it fails because it's superficial. Most of the information presented is general information you need to learn beforehand, as opposed to detailed reference information that no one would be expected to memorize. So, I'm going to give away this deck to a friend. For my own emergency kit, I'm going to pack one copy of the SAS Survival Guide (Collins Gem) by Lofty Wiseman (ISBN-10: 0061992860), plus a miniature deck of cards. The SAS book is 3 times the weight of a deck of playing cards, but it easily contains more than 10 times the info than this deck.

Very little useful information. Mostly general knowledge. No pictures. A few line drawings, such as "Parts of a compass" (Not real useful for survival). The back sides of the cards are all printed with "Don't Die Out There", so half of the available space on each card is completely wasted. These would have been great if they contained more useful information and if they were formatted like these cards: [Wild Cards: Edible Wild Foods \(All Ages\)](#)

These cards appear to be reasonably sturdy and it should be okay to throw them in a zip-loc bag or a dry bag in your BOB or hiking backpack. Can be used for a fun game of poker around the campfire or to research a variety of wilderness survival topics. For the experienced hiker/camper/survivalist the info on the cards may be a bit basic. I'm giving a set of cards to my son for his BOB and hoping he never needs them. These would be a great deal at \$3 to \$4 a deck, reasonable at \$7. Survival topics are divided by suits. Topics discussed include fire starting, first aid, shelter and other basic wilderness survival concerns. I guess if a deck of regular playing cards average \$3 a deck, this is a pretty decent alternative that could actually save your life.

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