

Treestand Checklist: 10 Items Not to Forget for the Hunt

By Chelsea Tubridy



With the excitement and anticipation of getting in to the woods and waiting out that big buck you have been watching on your trail camera, it is easy to let important items slip your mind when you load your truck. Here's a list to make sure that you don't get caught in the hunt without the essentials!

1. **Hunting License:** This isn't a matter of convenience, but a matter of law! Be sure your hunting license is with you at all times. You'll need it to tag and call in your kill immediately.
2. **Weapon:** Ok, this may be an obvious one, but you don't want to pull in to your hunting spot only to realize that your gun or bow is still in the case sitting at home.
3. **Safety Attire:** While not required during all seasons, blaze orange attire is required during most hunting seasons. Be sure you know the minimum requirements and that you're meeting them with your gear!
4. **Flashlight:** Whether you're walking in to the woods at dawn or out of the woods at dusk, a flashlight with good batteries is essential to have. After all, how else can you track the blood after your shot!



5. **Scent Spray:** Just like you don't want the deer to hear or see you, you also don't want them to smell you! Deer have an outstanding sense of smell. Make sure you spray down well to stay as hidden as possible.
6. **Extra Ammunition:** Whether you're hunting with a gun or with a bow, be sure you have more than one shot! If you're hunting with a bow, make sure your quiver has extra arrows with good broadheads. If you're hunting with a gun, make sure you have extra shells or bullets to reload when necessary.
7. **Insect Repellent:** Depending on your location and the time of year, bugs can ruin a hunting trip. What's worse than swatting at mosquitoes when you're trying to remain as still as possible? Whether it's unscented bug spray or a TheraCell carry-along, make your hunt as painless as possible with insect repellent.
8. **Knife:** There are countless reasons to have a good knife from skinning and gutting to simply wanting another form of weaponry. Regardless of the reason, a good knife is an invaluable item to have in the woods.
9. **Rain Gear:** Weather is unpredictable. Don't get caught in an unexpected rain and have to cut your hunt short! Bring waterproof gear with you and be prepared for any kind of weather!
10. **Deer Dragging Strap:** Whether you plan to track and drag your deer alone or commandeer some help from friends, a deer dragging strap will make the haul easier for everyone!

