



Y2K GUIDE

*What You
Need to Know*



*City of Oakland's Community Preparedness Partnership
is providing this guide to assist you in preparing
for any potential Y2K disruptions . . .*

What is Y2K? Y2K refers to the Year 2000 computer problem which will occur because many computers and electronic equipment that record the year in 2 digits ("99" for 1999) will be unable to correctly identify "00" as 2000, causing them to produce incorrect data, malfunction, or shutdown.

While many people are working very hard to fix these systems, it is often hard to know which machines have problems. There is not enough time or enough programmers to fix all of the systems before January 1, 2000.

How Does This Impact Us? Computers affect many aspects of our daily lives, whether or not we own or use them. Tests have found malfunctions in systems ranging from payroll to water treatment plants to car manufacturing. We now know that some systems will fail on or around New Year's 2000, but we cannot say with certainty which ones will malfunction, or how seriously. It is possible that there will be disruption in services such as electricity, air travel, water treatment, pagers, etc. In our complex society, systems are highly interconnected--a malfunction in one system could have multiple effects. We should all take steps to prepare for possible disruptions and approach this challenge in a calm, supportive way.

**Suggested
preparations~**

Y2K Checklist

✓ **Water:** Store clean water for drinking and food preparation. You can use rinsed soda bottles or water-storage jugs. 1-2 gallons per person per day. Have a water filter or purification tablets.

✓ **Food:** Store non-perishables such as canned goods and dried foods. Consider foods that do not require cooking, unless you have a safe cooking alternative. Do **NOT** use an open flame or camp stove indoors. Supplement your food supply by gardening, canning, sprouting beans in jars.

✓ **Medical Needs:** Keep extra supplies of any medications, eye glasses, etc. on hand. If possible, avoid being in a hospital over New Year's. Consider taking a basic first-aid course.

✓ **Heat:** Have warm clothes and extra blankets on hand. Do **NOT** light fires indoors except in devices designed for that purpose.

✓ **Records:** Keep paper copies of important financial and legal documents.

✓ **Transport:** Fill your gas tank ahead of time. Have a bicycle or other form of transportation ready, or plan to stay near home.

✓ **Computerized Equipment:** Contact the manufacturer or retailer regarding computers and computerized equipment (such as programmable thermostat or security system), and ask if it is Y2K compliant, or what changes or upgrades are necessary.

✓ **Waste:** Compost food scraps. Consider a compost toilet or "camp toilet," and heavy duty plastic bags for other wastes.

✓ **Other Supplies:** Have flashlights and a radio on hand (solar or battery powered), basic first aid kit, non-electric can opener, fire extinguisher, non-electric tools.

✓ **Electricity:** Consider battery-powered, manual or solar options in case of power outages. Fuel-powered generators can be very dangerous because of the fumes and fire risk. Do not attach any generator to your electric main, as the power may injure utility workers.

What You Can Do To Prepare As a Neighborhood

- Create a neighborhood network
 - host an area meeting
 - talk about plans for possible scenarios
 - designate block captains
 - organize a neighborhood watch
 - conduct a resources/skills inventory
 - perform a special needs assessment
- Establish community gardens
- Establish a communication center (walkie talkies, ham radio)
- Make joint purchases of shared resources (camp stoves, composting toilets, solar panels)
- Work together with other local organizations, such as the Neighborhood Service Coordinators (Oakland Police Dept.), local religious and social service organizations, etc.
- Help other neighbors become informed about Y2K and help each other respond responsibly
- Schedule a CORE training (a project of the Oakland Fire Services Agency) 510-238-6351

Additional Information

City of Oakland's Y2K Hotline: 510-238-4Y2K
www.oaklandnet.com

Oakland Prepared Neighbors, bringing Oakland residents together, block by block, to prepare for natural disasters and potential Y2K disruptions. 510-420-5772
www.homecomputerworks.com

Oakland 2001: Y2K Network for Community Preparedness & Advocacy 510-595-5505
email: oak2001-org@anamor.ph.com

In the event of an emergency, tune your radio to 530 AM for information, remain calm, and stay home if possible. During New Year's 2000 try to avoid travel.

Oakland's Y2K Community Preparedness Partnership, a multi-agency task force, is dedicated to educating the citizens of Oakland in preparing for potential Y2K disruptions. Members include the American Red Cross, CARD (Collaborating Agencies Respond to Disaster), City of Oakland's Aging, Health and Human Services, Fire Services Agency-OES, Mayor's Commission on Disabled Persons, Office of Information Technology, Oakland Police Department, Oakland Prepared Neighbors, Oakland Tribune, and Oakland 2001.

510-238-3938

Y2K Community Preparedness Partnership