101 Kitchen Gear

Essential for survival

Ingredients

Salt

Black peppercorns (in grinder)

Chili flakes

Cumin seeds

Oregano

Vegetable oil

Butter

Cheddar cheese

Tomato purée

Garlic, onions

Tinned tomatoes

Plain flour

Stock cubes

Porridge oats

Rice

Equipment

2 plates

2 bowls

2 mugs

2 tumblers

2 wine glasses

2 knife/fork/spoon

6-8" cooks knife

paring knife

silicon spatula

milk pan

large saucepan

small casserole

small frying pan

plastic chopping board

Equipment

You want to eat, and you hope to entertain. So make sure that you have some place settings. This means at least 2 plates, ideally white with decent raised edges; plus bowls ideally ones that could suit dessert, cereal, pasta and other uses. Then 2 sets of knife, fork and spoon, and 2 tumblers and 2 (large) wine glasses. You also need 2-4 mugs for coffee/tea - half pint to half litre in size.

Next is cooking. One extremely sharp, good quality knife: a general purpose cooks knife, 6-8" is ideal. A small (4") paring knife is useful, but less important: you can peel potatoes, if you ever need to, with a potato peeler or a good pocket knife. Scissors do a very good job of chopping herbs, some small vegetables, and cutting meat, if you need. A plastic chopping board will help keep things clean. You can mix uses between raw meat and other items, if you wash it well between uses; this won't keep Health & Safety at bay, but then you're not a professional. Add a silicon spatula (or a wooden spatula). Then you need a small saucepan, the type called a milk pan, and a small frying pan (again, 6-8"). When you can, a large saucepan with a lid is good: for cooking pasta, vegetables and other items. A casserole is also important: about 1 litre. Cast iron frying pans are best, but you may have to put up with cheap non-stick and change when they expire. Casserole again is best in cast iron, but Pyrex is good (just don't put on direct heat).

Can opener; and grater. Tupperware: various sized plastic containers.

Store Cupboard

You need salt and pepper. Go for pure salt (rather than table salt) if you can; and black peppercorns, which you can buy in a small grinder easily.

Basic herbs and seasonings: chili flakes; cumin seeds; oregano. Seeds and flakes last longer than powder; and oregano is the only herb that has much flavour when dried.

Try to keep butter and cheese, which have many uses; ideally some medium cheddar, and possibly some Gran Padano (cheaper than parmesan). A decent vegetable oil is useful.

Tomato purée (in a tube). Garlic, onions, oats, stock cubes. Tinned tomatoes. Store the garlic in the dark, so it takes longer to sprout. A small (1 lb) bag of plain flour, which you should store in a plastic container (same goes for the oats). Rice, also for a plastic container.