

MODULE 3: TOOLS, WORK VEHICLE, & WORKFLOW

Before you get overwhelmed!!

I gathered all these tools for under \$200, gifts, hammy downs, thriftstores, facebook marketplace, craigslist. If you want to buy it new go for it! If you want to get started without spending a lot of money like I did, get thrifty. Befriend some old guys, be friendly with clients and they will offer you tools they have and don't need anymore.

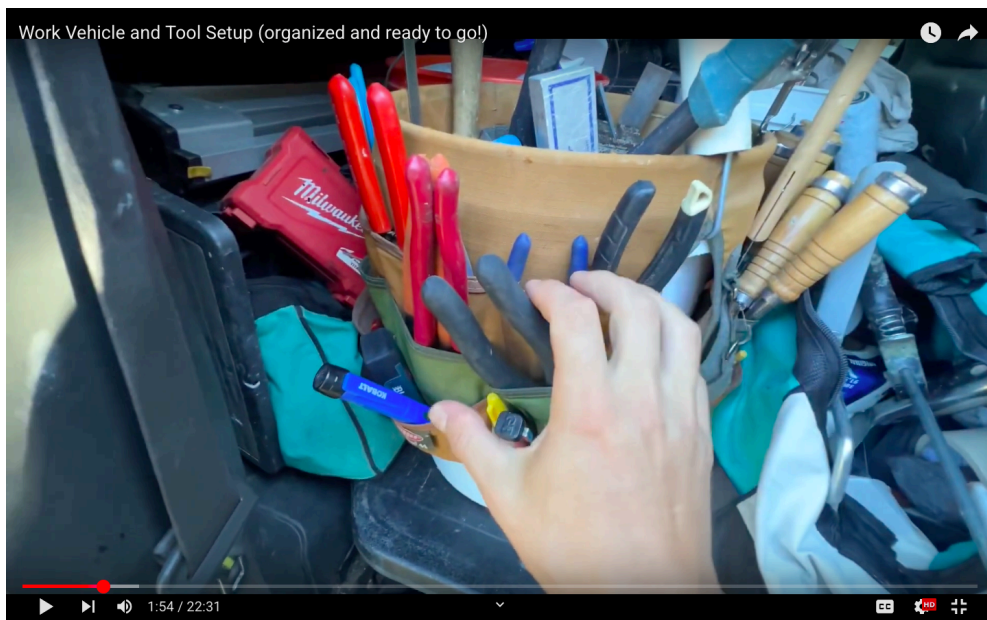
My first vehicle was a 2003 Subaru Forester I bought in cash for \$3,500 off craigslist and I did all my work out of there for the first 4 years till my brother in law sold me his Chevy Avalanche for \$5,000.

I have around 10k worth of tools now, but for the first 4 years I had used old tools and I did great work with them.

See My Setup:

Watch this video of me showing you my work truck and tool setup, how I keep it organized and what a 8 year handyman has accumulated in tools:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MxcTNcqlvSE&feature=youtu.be>



1. My Starter Tool Kit (Under \$1,000)

- Cordless Drill
- Multi Tool
- Paintbrush
- 5 min Drywall Mud Powder
- Drywall repair kit (Pale, Knife Set etc)
- Utility Knife + Blades
- Tape Measure + Stud Finder
- Adjustable Wrench + Channel Locks
- Screwdriver Set (Flathead + Phillips)
- Level (2ft + Torpedo)
- Pliers + Wire Cutters
- Hammer, finish hammer, rubber mallet
- Painter's Multi-Tool
- Tool Bag or Tool Bucket
- Caulk Gun + Tubes (paintable + waterproof + silicone)
- Extension Cord + Power Strip
- Mini Shop Vac or Dust Brush
- Work Light or Headlamp
- Knee Pads or Floor Cushion
- Foldable stool
- Basic assortment of Screws and Nails (Mollies included)
- Hand Saw / Circular Saw / Jigsaw
- Chisels
- Plastic wood or Bondo
- Super Glue
- Spray bottle
- Step Ladder/foldable extension ladder
- Cleaning Rags + Contractor Bags
- Stringline

2. How I Stay Mobile and Efficient

- Stackable bins for different jobs (plumbing, drywall, etc.)
- Milk crate for materials, contractor bag for tools
- Painter's tape or label maker to mark every bin
- I reset my tools every night — makes the next day smoother

Have your painting stuff in a bucket, your drywall stuff in a duffle bag, your hand tools in a tool bucket, a tool bag with caulking, plastic wood and touchup markers. Don't throw it all into one tub. Have it organized and easily accessible.



3. Looking Professional on a Budget

- Plain or logo shirt, clean pants, closed-toe boots (slip on boots like Redbacks are perfect for entering and exiting clients homes with a shoes off policy)
- Magnetic truck signs (cheap and effective)
- Business cards from Vistaprint
- Simple landing page with photos and contact info
- I accept Venmo, Zelle, PayPal, Check, or Square for easy payments

4. Pro Tip: Organization is the Best Tool

If I spend 10 minutes looking for something four times a day, that's almost an hour of unpaid time. That's why I keep things tight and always put tools back in the same place. It adds up fast.

Bonus Pro Tip!

When I started my vehicle was a 2003 Subaru Forester I bought for \$3,500, it was the perfect vehicle for handyman work. You don't NEED a truck. But if you want one eventually, you'll be able to afford it if you do what's in this guide.

I used buckets and milk crates for all my tools early on, when I wanted to upgrade I got the \$100 Husky roll around tool box set, and when I wanted to upgrade more, I found a \$1,500 Milwaukee Packout set for \$300 on craigslist. Start simple, make money, upgrade as you desire.

Story: The Tool That Cost Me an Hour

I once spent 45 minutes looking for a bit I thought I had packed. I had to drive home to get it, and that whole time, the client was just waiting. That day I realized being organized wasn't optional. I set up bins and tool bags the next week. I haven't had to waste that kind of time since — and I work way faster.

My dad taught me as a kid, everything has a home. When you're done with the toy, put it in its home. Same goes for screwdrivers and chisels. Put it back where you grabbed it from. Don't be like the crackhead who just throws tools back into his vehicle.

Module 3 RECAP - Checklist

- **Get thrifty - build your arsenal of tools with Facebook Marketplace, Old Guys, Craigslist etc**
- **Stay organized! If you know where everything is you will be fast and efficient**
- **Get a simple vehicle, keep it clean and make it work!**
- **Keep well dressed**
- **Get online banking set up so clients can pay you easily!**