

Post Collapse Trades



*Tech level required: Mainly **low tech**, but it varies all the way from **no tech** to **high tech**!*

What Are Post Collapse Trades?

A **post collapse trade** is a means of pursuing a livelihood that continues to have value after either economic collapse or some other tumultuous events, or outside of the main “industrial complex” - perhaps in a small, local community.

That's not to say that post-collapse trades have no value "pre collapse". There are people involved in these trades all over the world.

List Of 25 Post Collapse Trades

Here's my list of trades that will be extremely valuable post-collapse. These are all valuable skills that can translate into a self-employed income - both **doing** the task and **teaching** others how. These skills are all valuable in small, local communities and 'off grid groups'.

1. Medical skills and knowledge.
2. Metalwork – especially iron / steel, copper, brass.
3. Woodwork.
4. Stonework.
5. Leatherwork.
6. Electronics / electrical installation and repair.
7. General repairs, handyman and DIY of all kinds.
8. Planting, growing and harvesting food.
9. Food preservation and storage.
10. Hunting / tracking.
11. Foraging and plant identification.
12. Heating systems - fire, boilers, furnaces.
13. Solar power.
14. Hydroelectric power.
15. Wind power.
16. Transportation (passenger, cargo)
17. Mechanic / vehicle / bicycle maintenance.
18. Sailing / boatbuilding & maintenance.
19. Water collection, transportation, purification, supply and sewage systems.
20. Communications technology.
21. Needlecraft, fabrics, clothing.
22. Bushcraft & general survival skills.
23. Construction, architecture, homebuilding, shelter building and repair.
24. Animal care, training, veterinary services.
25. Teacher: a) "the three R's" - reading, writing and 'rithmetic. b) Teaching any of the other above skills.

Low Tech, High Self Reliance

The majority of post-collapse trades are “low tech” because of the need to strive to be **self reliant**. If your workshop depends on high tech tools that can only be sourced via the industrial supply chain, then without that supply chain if a tool breaks down, then that’s the end of it.

One of the hallmarks of a good post-collapse trade is that it is sustainable, which means having the **tools to make the tools** you need – plus being able to make and maintain these tools.

It’s an interesting exercise to ask yourself which of the tools that you currently use you could repair, customize or even make all over again “from scratch” if you had to.

Community Value

A survival insight that I always like to share is that if you have skills that are in high demand, you are safer than someone who has great wealth but is not considered “useful” by others.

Having great wealth in a post-collapse scenario is actually a very dangerous position to be in. However if you have the kind of medical training that can save lives, the community will want to protect you!

If you ask most people whether they would like skills or gold bars, most will take the gold bars.

But it’s the skills that will enable you to live. The gold bars might cause you to die and that’s just the plain truth. Remember, wars are fought over gold bars.

So you can see a second benefit of post collapse trades is that people will want

to keep you around. You become indispensable rather than disposable.

Fixing Electronics

Slightly controversial on this one; I believe electronics to be an extremely important post-collapse trade – perhaps even one of the most important of all. Hear me out.

While a “Viking style” life might have romantic appeal and the healthful benefits of the great outdoors; if there was truly an SHTF event, electronics would not disappear overnight. Everyone still has all their electronic devices and in all probability they would still at least partly work.

Then... gradually over time, more and more of them would break, meaning that it's likely that demand for **electronics repair** would escalate to the point of it being completely overwhelming.

If there **was** the kind of catastrophic event that took out large numbers of electrical / electronic systems, the demand for someone who could fix those systems would be off the charts.

The urgency of skilled electronics / IT repair techs to post-collapse medical and administrative centers in particular cannot be overstated. You might have the fate of a civilization on the brink of collapse in your hands – for real.

It's quite a shift in perspective, isn't it? While many survivalists are learning to make fire with flint, here I am saying “Learn electronics”. No shade at all on bushcraft but our world has come so much to depend on electronics of various kinds that it's now a survival essential, strangely.

The famous old business saying “***In a gold rush, sell shovels***” still holds true. There is always opportunity in observing market trends and in providing products and services that are related.

This is also an arena in which you could get started now. It could be a side hustle with skills and knowledge growing over time.

What can we see at present? More people than ever before using the internet. People being **required** to use the internet when previously they were not.

How many spin-off businesses can you think of that relate to this trend? Coaching. Related products. Installation, equipment services and repairs. Shipping, delivery and other logistics.

Repair And Resell Business

There is of course no limit to what can be repaired if you have the skills and equipment to do so. You could set up a small workshop in your garage or shed and just make a start. You can find free tutorials on how to repair pretty much anything!

In addition to this, there are innumerable people who have made a business out of buying broken items, repairing / restoring / upgrading them and then selling them.

I came across one eBayer who restores vintage woodworking tools – cleaning, polishing and sharpening chisels, planes etc and bringing them back to their former glory. I bought woodwork tools from him and there's a quality to those old steels that seems to have been lost.

A variation on this is **upcycling** - creating high value items from recycled or free items.

Great example here:

Turning 3 Free Pallets into a \$1,360 Desk

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=K-dUIa9_iVw

A turnkey service where people ship their electronics and have them fixed, with fast turnaround – is a useful business to be in.

One of the first ideas that comes to mind is laptop computers because the demand is obviously very high and there are tons of broken ones out there. There are even eBay sellers selling old Macbooks by the pallet load!

A skilled “general repair person” is going to be as valuable post-SHTF as they were in the good old days...

Medical Skills

Probably the most important and valuable skill of all. The need for people who can save lives is paramount even in “normal times”. In crazy times, these vital individuals are so busy that sleep often goes by the wayside.

Here’s a link to what is probably the best guide to medical preparedness (Amazon affiliate link): [The Survival Medicine Handbook: The Essential Guide For When Help Is NOT On The Way](#)

Here’s a short quote from the Amazon page. This will get you thinking.

“If a disaster took away the high-technology we take for granted, would you be prepared to keep you family healthy? Could you be an effective medic when hospitals are overcrowded and the ambulance is heading in the other direction? Can you take over if you were the highest medical asset left?”