

# POST-APOLYPTIC HOUSEWIFE'S DOMESTIC COMPANION

February 28, 2010

Welcome to after the apocalypse! This little zine is brought to you by people attending Continuum 6, Melbourne's science fiction convention. We hope all you housewives out there appreciate these tips on how to keep your man happy, your children gainfully occupied and well-disciplined, your household running at 120% efficiency and your hair perfect, even in the nuclear or zombie aftermath.

It is scientifically proven that saying "I don't like this and it's not fun any more" will not stop the apocalypse from happening.

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## ROLLING PIN COMBAT TIPS

**KEEPING YOUR BALANCE:** Always stand with your feet about shoulder length apart, on solid ground. If you fall over, you will get eaten. Also, a handy hint for the less strength inclined of housewives is to swing mainly from the wrist or elbow rather than the shoulder; allowing for a decent impact without the lengthy recovery time of a full swing.

**THE PARRY:** Remember- block your opponents blows. The best way with a rolling pin is to block the opponent's ARM rather than their weapon- a sharp weapon may become stuck into the rolling pin, and you may be disarmed. A block to the opponent's arm may however break the bones, disarming (hehe) your opponent instead.

**DRIVING THE POINT HOME:** Many rolling pins include thinner handles attached to the main body. To dispatch a disabled opponent simply place the handle in an eye socket, and lean heavily on the other end, insuring to drive the handle up into the brain pan.

It is never too soon to involve your children in home defence. They can learn to throw before they learn to walk.

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## RECOGNISING AND DEALING WITH DENIZENS OF THE POST-APOLYPTIC WORLD

In the event of an apocalypse, you will need to be able to identify exactly what you are up against and respond appropriately. Here is a simple guide to common post-apocalyptic threats.

### Zombies

Zombies come in two main varieties, the simple risen dead and the infectious. Both can be identified by their heavily bloodstained clothing and faces, shambling gait and varying degrees of decomposition. Both can be dispatched by destroying the brain.

### Vampires

Similar at first sight to zombies, these blooddrinking undead are faster and more intelligent, but can be repelled by crucifixes or holy water. A wooden stake driven through the heart makes a good permanent countermeasure.

### Viruses

Victims of infection may present with a variety of symptoms, and many bear a superficial resemblance to zombies or vampires, but most carry standard human weaknesses. Avoid physical contact at all costs.

### Robots

The product of science gone wrong, robot armies actively hunt human survivors and are practically invulnerable to most conventional weapons. Use of electrical weaponry (where available), heavy weaponry and explosives is recommended.

### Brigands and Bandits

Humans of the most degraded kind, they prey on vulnerable survivors. Guaranteed to be armed, but are usually unaltered humans with normal weaknesses. Engaging them in close combat is not recommended.

### Nanobots

Also known as Von Neumann machines, these miniscule robots travel in swarms of many millions, making use of surrounding materials to replicate themselves ceaselessly. Will convert anything they encounter. Avoid completely – survival prospects: nil.

Too many coat hangers filling up much-needed storage space? Get your husband to convert them to chainmail. All he needs is a pair of pliers and some long winter nights with time on his hands. Make sure he has plenty of nice light and a comfortable chair, and put the children to bed so they don't interrupt his peace and quiet. He will turn you out a lovely protective garment that will last and last. Be sure to let him know how much you appreciate his effort.

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## BUNKER INTERIOR DESIGN TIPS

- Make small spaces feel less cramped by placing two mirrors facing each other.
- Putting pretty-coloured flowers between the mirrors will reflect the colour back and forth in a bright beam that makes everyone who walks through it feel refreshed.
- Make sure you remove dead flowers: they will create a beam of fatigue that makes everyone in the bunker feel tired and disheartened.

For quick and easy finger foods, simply pierce a cockroach with a wood splinter. Wiggling legs will reassure your guests of freshness. Indulge your creativity in presentation.

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## HOW TO TELL WHAT KIND OF APOCALYPSE HAS OCCURRED WITH FOUR EASY QUESTIONS

1. People who die are staying dead  
no 2  
yes 3
2. Dead people return to life with their brain function unimpaired  
yes **Vampire**. Seek their vulnerabilities and be aware that they may have gained extraordinary abilities.  
no **Zombie**. Their vulnerability is their lack of intelligence, beware of other changes.
3. Dead people appear to have mostly died within a short time period and show signs of disease  
yes **Viral**. Take precautions against infection, use quarantine and sterilisation meticulously. Protect people in the virus' target demographic.  
no 4
4. Electronic devices function:  
no, they all stopped **Nuclear**. Confirm with geiger counter readings – they should vary with wind direction and proximity to likely targets.  
yes, fine as before **Environmental**. Watch out for highly variable weather and frequent ferocious natural

events. Climate may have changed and suitable farming areas moved by up to two hundred kilometres. yes, but they don't respond to our control **Robotic**. Electronic machines will act independently of humans and not in your best interests. Assume all machines are actively seeking to thwart re-establishment of human control. Beware of surveillance satellites.

Red sky in morning – robot warning  
Red sky at night sears your dead body with its light

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## How to Compost Zombies

brought to you by our sponsors The Engyo Folk: remember, Get Engyo InYa Soil And Go.

Been attacked by zombies and now have a pile of shredded rotting bodies that you don't know what to do with? It's simple: you can sanitise the remains, protect your family and your livestock from infection and make good clean soil for growing crops in, just by following our safe and easy composting process.

First, prepare a pit for the compost. It should be at least one metre deep and about one and a half times as long as will take to fit in all the zombie remains, lined with sand at the bottom and along the sides.

Second, put on your protective mask and gloves and ensure your face is covered. Remember not to touch your face with your hands! Use a good blade (glass or obsidian are best) to dismember any large chunks and put them all into the pit. Remember that all flesh can carry the zombie prion infection and that it will not be visible to the naked eye, so treat all flesh as potentially dangerous and keep away from children and domestic animals. **Tip: Big fatty sections can be put straight into a rendering pot – the fat from around the abdominal organs makes excellent bait for trapping rogue zombies or wild pigs, is an superior fence post preservative, and is perfectly safe for use as long as rendered properly. Any scum that rises in rendering is potentially infectious so should be removed and added back to your composting pit.**

Add urine, approximately two-thirds of a cup per four litres of zombie flesh. The urea in the urine acts as a denaturant, encouraging the prions to unfold so that they can be deactivated more easily. **Tip: placing a pissoir outside the bedroom windows of any male occupants of the homestead is an easy way to collect the liquid and keep the walls clean at the same time!**

Add one cup or 250 ml of Engyo's OK-Protease-K Syrup™ per four litres of zombie flesh, available at all good general supplies stores, and stir in well. Alternatively, mix one part syrup with two parts water and use a spray bottle to spray flesh chunks as they are put in the pit. **Tip: why not add a packet of Engyo's OK-Engyodontium™ spores for faster hydrocarbon chain conversion? You can use the resulting mushrooms to make your own batches of Protease-K syrup, or just a light lunch! Available in 45g packets wherever OK-Protease-K Syrup™ is sold.**

Add your mask, gloves and anything else non-sterilisable to the pit for biodegrading. Cover the pit with a secure cover that no animals or children can get into and leave for one week. Sterilise all implements used by suspending them in a pressure cooker, completely covered with a solution of forty grams caustic soda per litre of water, and cook at high pressure for 30 minutes before washing as normal. **Tip: do not use an aluminium pressure cooker pot.**

After a week, lift the pit cover. The flesh should have liquefied and all prions both normal and infectious will be largely broken down to component molecules. Mix in an equal volume of high-carbon material: shredded paper, straw, raked leaves, grass clippings, or whatever you have available. Re-cover the pit and leave to compost for four weeks, stirring at least twice a week to encourage oxygen penetration and reduce odour. At the end of this time you will have healthy humus, ready to go into new planting beds. **Tip: mix with clean sand to create a quick and easy**

potting mix!

Early to rise, early to bed, healthy body and mind helps you avoid the undead.

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## HOW TO TURN YOUR LASER SHOOTING ROBOT ENEMY INTO A CONVENIENT REFRIGERATOR AND OTHER HOUSEHOLD NECESSITIES

**Piece 1, the fan:** as any computer nerd will tell you, all computer devices require fans or other means to prevent overheating of critical robot components. Assuming that during your defeat of the machine these functions were not disabled you should be able to extract these for your own uses. These will prove useful for any refrigeration unit, for simple thermal control and interior heat redirection, or simply for ventilation repair.

**Piece 2, machine chassis:** can be converted to a convenient trangea. Curved pieces can also focus and reflect sunlight for thermal cooking, signalling or a weapon.

**Piece 3, the laser gun:** aside from its intended purpose, it will also provide useful for smaller jobs such as burning off unsightly moulds growing on your food.

**Piece 4, the power core:** all electronic devices require a power core in order to act. This core can be turned to power many pre-apocalyptic devices.

**Piece 5, scraps as dew collectors:** Morning dew found on rocks provides water, basic for survival. Metal must therefore of course provide equal amounts of dew given the proper placement. Place all scrap metal in a shaded place near where you have noticed moisture collecting.

Horses, Oxen and Mules - the rule of Four:  
One acre in four to grow their grain and grass  
One animal in four to carry their own food on long journeys

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## CONTRIBUTORS

It is better to shout first than not at all.

Thanks to everyone who submitted content from one-liners to small articles. Not everyone gave us their names, but those we know of include (alphabetically) Alisdair, Brendan, Jess, Josh, Miriam E, Sarah P, and Tiki.