



HARD ROCK

BUILD YOUR BASIC TOOL KIT

Your first few times out digging; having a tool kit with the basics will get you well into the rock and dirt! As you dig, and observe other miners, tool kit expansion happens pretty naturally! You may need to visit a few different hardware stores to find all of your favorites.

My normal stops are Harbor Freight (for the short handled 4-lb sledgehammer & pittsburgh steel pry bars), Home Depot (for hand and garden tools AND small root clippers), Lowes (for Irwin brand chisels with hand guards - your Orthopedist will thank me later), and yard sales for old pry bars of any length and heavier sledgehammers with wooden handles (you can cut and re-grip them, to be the right size for your height). A 5-gallon bucket and a backpack is a great place to start for organizing your tools.

WHERE TO START

SLEDGEHAMMERS

A short handled 3 or 4 lb sledgehammer is a must for working with your chisels and setting capes. Our personal favorite is sold at Harbor Freight and has a yellow handle. An 8 or 10 lb sledgehammer should be added as you build your dig skills

HAND RAKE, HOE AND SHOVEL

Garden hand tools are great for dirt digging - a hand tiller/rake with strong prongs, and a short handled hoe, and A short handled shovel or a garden trowel will help keep your dig space cleared so you can read the rocks

A FEW CHISELS

Our personal favorites are the Irwin **Cold Tip Chisels with hand guards** sold at Lowes. Both the bullhead and 1-inch tips. When you're ready for an upgrade treat yourself to a **Ron Murray Steel - Caping Chisels** and a Ninja!

SCREWDRIVER

A few various size flathead screwdrivers will be some of your best tools - look for something with a strong shaft that will not bend when you use it to pry rocks

PRY/CROW BAR

A 24-inch pry or crow bar to help with rock removal, just be careful with the hooked end type - be aware of where it might slip when you break a rock loose!

AWL AND CHOPSTICKS

Absolute necessities for excavating pockets! **A small scratch awl or dentist like tools, and strong chopsticks** - or a single point deer antler!

