

Answers

| Item | Ranking | NASA's Reasoning |
|---|---------|--|
| Box of matches | 15 | Virtually worthless -- there's no oxygen on the moon to sustain combustion |
| Food concentrate | 4 | Efficient means of supplying energy requirements |
| 50 feet of nylon rope | 6 | Useful in scaling cliffs and tying injured together |
| Parachute silk | 8 | Protection from the sun's rays |
| Portable heating unit | 13 | Not needed unless on the dark side |
| Two .45 calibre pistols | 11 | Possible means of self-propulsion |
| One case of dehydrated milk | 12 | Bulkier duplication of food concentrate |
| Two 100 lb. tanks of oxygen | 1 | Most pressing survival need (weight is not a factor since gravity is one-sixth of the Earth's -- each tank would weigh only about 17 lbs. on the moon) |
| Stellar map | 3 | Primary means of navigation - star patterns appear essentially identical on the moon as on Earth |
| Self-inflating life raft | 9 | CO ₂ bottle in military raft may be used for propulsion |
| Magnetic compass | 14 | The magnetic field on the moon is not polarized, so it's worthless for navigation |
| 20 litres of water | 2 | Needed for replacement of tremendous liquid loss on the light side |
| Signal flares | 10 | Use as distress signal when the mother ship is sighted |
| First aid kit, including injection needle | 7 | Needles connected to vials of vitamins, medicines, etc. will fit special aperture in NASA space suit |
| Solar-powered FM receiver-transmitter | 5 | For communication with mother ship (but FM requires line-of-sight transmission and can only be used over short ranges) |