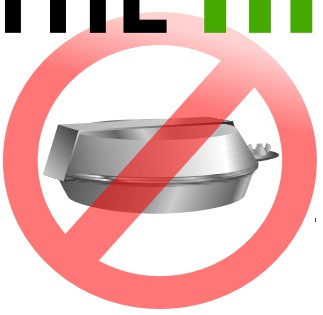
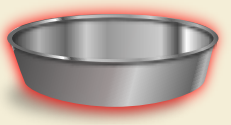
THE HIGHLY EVOLVED MESS KIT



The old-style aluminum clam-shell mess kit is long on tradition but short utility - It's time to scrap it for something better!

Mess Kit Plate



The thermodynamic design of the plate half of a mess kit would make engineers who design heat dissipating equipment proud. An aluminum plate sucks the heat out of food and transfers it directly to your hands.

The 'Frying' Pan



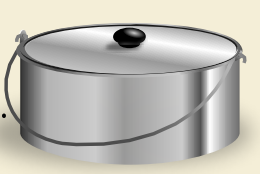
Try frying something without it sticking and burning. Never mind the handle with nuts and bolts that inevitably disappear into a pile of leaves.

The Cup



Thin-walled mess kit cups don't keep things hot, they are flimsy and unstable (try to drink hot coffee using the twiddly little appendage they call a handle).

The Pot



The mess kit pot is tiny and impractical. It holds barely a cup of water, and can't hold enough food for anything resembling a decent meal.

Utensils



The traditional interlocking knife, fork, spoon is just plain silly. Lugs on the spoon collect crud and the bowl is shallow and small. The fork is a utilitarian masterpiece compared to the dull, flimsy, useless knife that shames knives everywhere.

Canteens



Anyone who ever used an aluminum canteen recalls the distasteful metallic tang imparted to the contents along with the ghost of last year's Kool-aid. Is there anything more uncomfortable on a hike than a canteen slapping against your hips at every step?





Evolved Plate

Anything else is better than an aluminum plate: a recycled carry-out or Tupperware container holds your other gear approximating the old style mess kit.

Evolved Frying Pan

The frying pan is extinct, besides you probably weren't going to fry anything anyway. If you must get a cast-iron frying pan.



Evolved Mug

Insulated plastic mugs are everywhere, they keep things warm, have a lid, and they can do double duty as a bowl.



Evolved Pot

A 1-2 quart aluminum camping pot is big enough for two or three people to use. Camping cookware is usually two or three times the price of 'normal cookware, look for a suitable pot at the discount store.



Evolved Utensils

Why carry a fork and a spoon when a spoon will do? Plastic spoons are pretty easy to find (I do like Lexan spoons - they are cheap, light and indestructible). You don't need a special eating knife if you're carrying a pocket knife



Evolved Canteen

The capacious plastic water bottle now rules the day. A wide easy-to clean mouth, inert materials and a secure cap make for a perfect camping container Disposable soda or water bottles can be reused many times over. They are light, cheap and, if the cap leaks, can be fixed with some plumber's Teflon tape.

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