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In Skyrim's unforgiving environment, having the right gear is crucial for a player's survival. Making your own gear can be an effective way to ensure it's tailored to your needs, but even mid-level smiths might struggle to boost their armor and weapon power. This is where Alchemy comes in, particularly through potions that provide a temporary yet significant boost to Smithing. By mastering the basics of potion brewing, players can quickly create Fortify Smithing potions that help them upgrade their steel and ebony gear. To aid players in this endeavor, we've updated our guide with the new alchemical ingredients added in Skyrim's Anniversary Edition, including those useful for Fortify Smithing potions. These potent concoctions will not only increase the player's ability to improve armor and weapons but also enhance their overall combat effectiveness. The Fortify Smithing effect is straightforward: it increases the amount of improvement that can be made at a Workbench or Grindstone, respectively. However, the actual boost depends on the player's Alchemy skill level. To craft stronger potions, players must either increase their Alchemy skill through repeated potion-making or invest in training sessions from certain NPCs. For those aiming for an optimal Alchemist build, races like Bosmer, Breton, Khajit, and Dunmer offer bonuses to this skill. What makes Fortify Smithing potions unique is that there are only four ingredients that can be used to create them. These items are relatively easy to find or purchase from alchemical merchants. The ingredients for these potions include Blisterwort, which grows abundantly in various caves throughout Skyrim; Glowing Mushroom, a luminescent fungus found in caves and other underground areas; Sabre Cat Tooth, obtained by facing off against the fearsome creatures in Whiterun's wilderness or Winterhold; and lastly, there are three other ingredients used in Fortify Smithing potions: Frost Mirrium, found in the basement of Honnibrew Meadery as part of the Thieves' Guild quest "Dampened Spirits"; Miraak's Sword Hill, obtained from defeating the Dragon Priest Miraak; and lastly, there is a rare ingredient that can be used to craft potions that provide a boost to Smithing: Snowberries. Greenspring Hollow in Whiterun Hold serves as a home to formidable felines. Caution is advised for low-level players, as these predators can be quite fierce when encountered in large numbers. Spriggan Sap: Despite its name, this ingredient cannot be obtained as loot from Spriggans. Instead, it must be purchased or stolen from alchemy shops. Alchemy labs set up within homes often come equipped with certain ingredients, including Spriggan Sap. Additionally, a few samples can be found throughout the College of Winterhold, in the Hall of Countenance and Arch-Mage's quarters. Unlike those found in purchasable homes, these respawn every few in-game days. Dreugh Wax: Introduced through Rare Curios, this item is available for purchase from Khajit Caravans. Gold Kanet: Like Dreugh Wax, this ingredient was added with Rare Curios and can be purchased from Khajit Caravans. Pearlfish: Added with the Fishing creation, players can catch this fish in rivers near Riverwood. The best chance to catch a Pearlfish occurs during temperate, rainy weather. The value of Fortify Smithing potions increases significantly when combined with other effects. Players can grind these out to raise their alchemy skill and sell them for a profit. Furthermore, consider the following recipes that create useful potions in various scenarios. Mixing Blisterwort and Glowing Mushroom alone produces only the Fortify Smithing effect; however, adding Giant's Toe brings out Damage Stamina and Fortify Health effects. Combining Blisterwort and Sabre Cat Tooth with a Sabre Cat Eyeball creates a potion of Fortify Smithing, Restore Health, and Restore Stamina, perfect for improving armor after a tough fight. Spriggan Sap and Dreugh Wax both possess the Fortify Enchanting effect. Combining these two ingredients produces a potion ideal for Skyrim crafting sessions. Adding a third ingredient can also add a third effect, increasing the potion's value: Add Grass Pod or River Betty for Fortify Alteration; Add Blisterwort, Fly Amanita, or Troll Fat for Frenzy. Add Creep Cluster, Dwaven Oil, or Jazbay Grapes for Weakness to Magic. Add Blue Mountain Flowers or Glow Dust for Damage Magicka Regen. To boost your Smithing skill and upgrade your armor and weapons, you'll need to unlock the power of potions. Fortify Smithing potions are a game-changer, offering a significant temporary boost to your crafting skills. With practice, you can master the basics and brew potions like a pro. The Anniversary Edition added new alchemical ingredients, including ones that can be used in Fortify Smithing potions. These potions increase your ability to improve armor and weapons at a Workbench or Grindstone. Your Alchemy skill level determines how much of an impact these improvements have. To make stronger potions, you'll need to raise your Alchemy skill by making as many potions as possible or buying training sessions from NPCs. To create Potions of Fortify Smithing, you'll only need four rare ingredients: Blisterwort, Glowing Mushroom, Sabre Cat Tooth, and Spriggan Sap. These can be found in various locations throughout Skyrim, including caves, ruins, and even purchased from alchemical merchants (or stolen if you're feeling sneaky). Fortify Smithing Potion Ingredients Found in Skyrim Players must obtain Fortify Smithing potion ingredients from various sources, including alchemy shops and wild locations. Some ingredients, such as Spriggan Sap, are readily available in the College of Winterhold. Dreugh Wax can be purchased from Khajit Caravans, while Pearlfish is caught in rivers near Riverwood. Grinding these ingredients helps increase the Dragonborn's Alchemy skill, allowing them to sell potions for a profit. Certain combinations, such as Blisterwort and Glowing Mushroom with a Giant's Toe, produce more valuable potions that grant unique effects. Mixing various ingredients can create potent concoctions perfect for specific situations or improving armor. In addition to these potion recipes, combining Fortify Smithing with other alchemical effects yields even greater results. We initially considered using potions to boost our skills, but we're going to exploit the Enchanting skill instead to supercharge our Smithing and go even further. This process is multi-step and requires periodic execution throughout your playthrough, but it's worth the effort. To maximize Fortify Smithing's benefits, you'll need: 100 Smithing 100 Alchemy 100 Enchanting Seeker of Shadows perk (Dragonborn DLC) Enchanter Rank 5 Insightful Enchanter Alchemist Rank 5 Physician (To unlock Benefactor) Benefactor Steel Smithing (To unlock Smithing Perk Tree) The Smithing perk for your armor choice A lot of alchemy ingredients and jewelry Having these requirements won't be a hindrance to using the Fortify Smithing effect immediately, but it'll take time and effort to achieve. This is where you'll want to focus if you want the best out of Fortify Smithing. Fortify Smithing is a magical effect that increases the improvement level of weapons and armor by a certain percentage. It only applies to improving, not creating, items. As your Smithing level rises, so does the quality of your crafted or improved items. There are six quality levels: Fine, Superior, Exquisite, Flawless, Epic, and Legendary. Fortify Smithing is the sole means of bypassing the 100 Smithing level cap. The primary advantage lies in its ability to push past the armor cap. Wearing four pieces of armor results in a cap of 567, while adding a shield brings it down to 542. However, with Fortify Smithing, you can exceed this limit. The benefit is particularly significant for roleplayers and enthusiasts of specific armor sets. You can don Elven armor as an Altmer loyal to the Thalmor or opt for Daedric or Dragonscale armor like in promotional material. The choice is yours, limited only by your imagination. Fortify Smithing also offers a means to boost weapon damage and, consequently, become more formidable in Skyrim, especially on Legendary difficulty or Survival Mode. Moreover, this skill allows you to profit from crafting and improving items, given that the items needed to improve them are readily available and affordable. Blisterwort and glowing mushrooms are crucial ingredients for many potions in Skyrim. Given their rarity, adding a third ingredient may not significantly enhance the potion's effectiveness. Instead of focusing on rare ingredients, it's more efficient to use the Green Thumb perk. To obtain blisterwort, head to Chillwind Depths west of Morthal, where you can find approximately 59 specimens. This location is also home to Falmer, so be cautious. Glowing mushrooms can be found in Bleak Falls Barrow (around 15 near the end), Chillwind Depths (25 or so), and Lost Echo Cave (nearly 60). When hunting for glowing mushrooms, pay attention to individual specimens, as they often appear alone. To make Blacksmith's Potions, which offer significant improvements to weapons and armor, follow these steps: * Purchase pre-made potions with the Blacksmith's prefix. * Alternatively, create your own potions using recipes found in the game. The best Blacksmith's brews can be obtained at the beginning of the game, but they are not worth buying. Instead, focus on creating your own Fortify Smithing Magical Apparel items or acquire unique pieces like the Silver-Blood Family Ring and Forgemaster's Fingers. To obtain the Fortify Smithing enchantment: 1. Disenchant any item with the effect. 2. Apply the enchantment to necklaces, armor, gauntlets, or rings. 3. Use grand or black soul gems filled with souls to make the best enchantments possible, with enchanting on hold for now. This is because your current skill levels are too low, resulting in weak enchantments that will be inferior to the lowest-tier Fortify Smithing gear (12% bonus). It would be a waste of resources and gold to pursue this step immediately, so consider coming back later. Let's move on to Fortify Alchemy instead. Fortify Alchemy is an enchantment that boosts potion potency by a set percentage. Unlike Fortify Smithing, it doesn't allow you to create potions with this effect. Given the importance of Alchemy in Skyrim, increasing potion strength is definitely worth doing. The Fortify Alchemy enchantment can be found on four types of items: Headgear, Necklaces, Gauntlets, and Rings. You can also disenchant unique items like Mui's Ring or the Ring of Pure Mixtures to obtain this effect. There are several ways to get the Fortify Alchemy enchantment, but the most common method is by disenchanting an item that already has it. The cap for Fortify Alchemy equipment is 41% per piece, but don't bother with this step too early in the game since your skills will be too low. Even a level 50 Enchanting skill and a Fortify Enchanting potion won't be enough to provide more than a 15% boost. Next up is Fortify Enchanting, which enhances the strength of any enchantment on armor, weapons, jewelry, or clothes. However, it can only be an effect in potions. The seven ingredients with the Fortify Enchantment effect are: Ancestor Moth Wing, Blue Butterfly Wing, Chaurus Hunter Antennae, Hagraven Claw, Snowberries, Spawn Ash, and Spriggan Sap. When foraging for Alchemy ingredients, focus on blue butterfly wings and snowberries as they're easier to find. You can usually spot blue butterflies near Holds during the day or purchase them from alchemist's shops. As for snowberries, you'll get some right after escaping Helgen at the beginning of the game. You can also travel to areas with snowy weather or plant them in your garden/greenhouse. Pre-made Fortify Enchanting potions with the Enchanter's prefix include: Enchanter's Potion (10% stronger for 30 seconds), Enchanter's Draught (15% stronger for 30 seconds), Enchanter's Philter (20% stronger for 30 seconds), and Enchanter's Elixir (25% stronger for 30 seconds). for 30 seconds). Unlike the Blacksmith's potions, I recommend keeping any Enchanter's Philter or Elixir you find. With a complete set of 20-25% Alchemy gear and level 85 Alchemy, my crafted Enchanting potions were just below Elixirs. They're not too expensive either, so arguably worth the gold spent. Alright, let's go through the entire process. Quick Method: Fast Track Fortify Smithing Process You won't reach the armor cap using this method, but you'll vastly improve your armor and weapons by doing so. Get a complete set of Fortify Smithing gear, head to a workbench and grinder's stone, and improve your weapons and armor. That's it, you're finished. Using this method, you can slowly but surely improve your weapons and armor as you adventure through Skyrim. I personally find this preferable to the min/maxing method, just because I don't want to be ridiculously OP too quickly. But if you really want that power fantasy going as quickly as possible, we can do that too. How to Maximize Fortify Smithing's Potential You'll need a lot of resources, gold, and high levels of Enchanting and Alchemy to utilize this method. First, get your hands on a complete set of alchemy gear. Then craft two Fortify Enchanting potions, disenchant a piece of Fortify Smithing gear, drink the potion(s), create a new set of Fortify Alchemy gear, put it on, and repeat the process until you can make 41% Fortify Alchemy pieces. Create a 41% Fortify Smithing gear set while you're at it, and finally make some Fortify Smithing potions. You should be able to make 174% Fortify Smithing potions if you have a maxed set of Alchemy gear, the Seeker of Shadows perk, and 100 Alchemy. All that's left is to grind your way to OP equipment. Oh, by the way, No Fortify Smithing Potion: A Crucial Upgrade for Skyrim Players The game of Skyrim can be rough without Fortify Smithing, as upgrades made won't be substantial enough to handle leveled enemies. Spending time collecting alchemy ingredients through foraging runs allows players to start the respawn timer for each zone. Selling off loot at blacksmiths and purchasing useful materials are recommended. As you progress, focus on preparing for mid-game challenges by utilizing this technique. There's a wide range of locations to explore in Skyrim, ensuring that with enough preparation, everything can be tackled. In Skyrim, Smithing is an important skill used for improving gear, making fights against creatures easier. However, increasing the Smithing level temporarily doesn't require leveling up the skill itself. The Fortify Smithing potion offers a boost when crafting or repairing gear at Workbenches and Grindstones. The only effective way to use this potion is while enhancing existing gear rather than creating new equipment. Crafting a Fortify Smithing Potion requires four key ingredients: Blisterwort, Glowing Mushroom, Sabre Cat Tooth, and Spriggan Sap. These components can be purchased from vendors, stolen, or gathered in the wild. The location of each ingredient varies across Skyrim's environment; for example, Blisterwort is commonly found in caves like Halldir's Cair. The potion's effect is to increase the player's Smithing level when upgrading armor and weapons at Workbenches and Grindstones. A player's Alchemy skill affects how much boost they get from this potion. To enhance your Alchemy skill level, focus on brewing more potions or invest in training sessions with certain non-player characters (NPCs). Additionally, wearing specific items such as an amulet, ring, armor piece, and gauntlets with the Fortify Smithing enchantment can also boost your Smithing skills temporarily.

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