

PREPARING FOR A LONG-TERM POWER OUTAGE:

THE ULTIMATE CHECKLIST

PREPARATION BEFORE A POWER OUTAGE

DO YOU HAVE:

- Enough non-perishable food (3-day supply for evacuations and 2-weeks supply if staying home) and water (1 gallon per person, per day).
- A list as to where your supplies are in case someone else must assist you in getting them.
- A manual can opener.
- Or need to get one or more inexpensive coolers to keep cold foods or frozen items in.
- Ice stored in a freezer or fridge dispenser that could be used in coolers.
- A digital thermometer to check internal temps of food. To ensure they stay cold enough.
- Carbon monoxide detectors with battery backup in central locations on every level of your home.
- A disaster prep kit, or 72-hour kit or Bug-out-Bag for each member of your family to ensure their safety and comfort during a power outage. A basic kit should include bottled water, non-perishable food, and battery-powered flashlights.
- Or want peace of mind and no power interruption? Consider purchasing a whole house generator or get a portable generator with the capabilities to power the devices you need to power. Seek a professional electrician for installation and hook-up.

CONSIDER THESE:

- First aid Kit, and medications for 7 days.
- Sanitation and personal hygiene items.
- Copies of personal documents (medication list, deed or lease info, birth certificates, insurance policies.)
- Phone and charger with a document of handwritten contacts in case phone dies and you need to call someone from another device.
- Keep a non-cordless telephone in your home. (old school type which might get dial tone if lines are not damage)
- Keep your gas tank full as often as possible.
- Extra Cash incase ATM's or Banks are down. (You can still purchase with stores using cash only at that time)
- Stock up on batteries or rechargeable batteries and other alternatives to meet your needs when the power goes out (Solar Panels, Hand crank devices)
- Take inventory of the items you need that rely on electricity.
- Have flashlights with extra batteries for every household member.
- Keep mobile phones and other electric equipment charged and gas tanks full. (Don't forget other fuels like propane, butane, or lamp oil)



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Weather is the leading cause of power outages in the U.S. Sign up for local weather to stay up to date on potential power outages.

DURING AN OUTAGE

- Stay away from any downed power lines or sparking equipment.
- Never use a gas stovetop or oven to heat your home.
- Consider avoiding the use of candles. This is due to the fire risk. Use extreme caution if you must use candles.
- Operate portable generators outdoors and at least 20 feet away from windows to avoid carbon monoxide poisoning. Do not connect your portable generator to your home's electrical systems unless you have a transfer switch. Otherwise use the portable generator to power items that need to be powered. (Example plugging in your refrigerator or freezer long enough to get them to proper temperatures.)
- Keep freezers and refrigerators closed. The refrigerator will keep food cold for about four hours. A full freezer will keep the temperature for about 48 hours 24 hours if it's half full.
- Use coolers with ice if the outage has the potential to continue beyond 24 hrs. If your climate is cold outside, store your coolers outside to keep them cool.
- Only use your non-perishables and staples AFTER using food from the refrigerator and freezer.
- Use a thermometer in the refrigerator and freezer so you can know the temperature when the power outage is over.
- Go to a community location with power if heat or cold is extreme.
- Turn off or disconnect appliances, equipment, or electronics. Power may return with momentary "surges" or "spikes" that can cause damage.
- Leave a single light turned on so you will know if the power is back on.
- Keep unnecessary travels by car down to a minimum. Traffic lights may be out, and roads might be congested.

AFTER AN OUTAGE

- Throw away any food that might be risky to consume. This includes food that has remained at temperatures of 40 degrees or higher for two hours or more. Throw away food that has an unusual odor, color, or texture. If you're not sure be safe and throw it away.
- If the power is out for more than a day, consider discarding selected medication. This includes medication that needed refrigeration unless the drug's label says otherwise. If a life depends on the refrigerated drugs, consult a doctor or pharmacist.

DO YOU LIVE IN A DISASTER PRONED AREA?

- Check your insurance policy. Some traditional homeowner policies don't cover disasters like flooding and earthquakes.
- Find out if you're in a flood zone. If so, take immediate steps to get flood insurance. Some policies typically take 30 days to go into effect.
- Prepare a disaster kit for each member of your household. This includes children and pets. A basic emergency prep kit should include bottled water, non-perishable food, batteries, and a flashlight.
- Keep a mini prep kit in your child's backpack.



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- Keep additional supplies in your car in case you need to evacuate with short notice.
- Severe weather and power outages often come together. In fact, severe weather is the leading-cause of power-outages in the U.S. Have a plan for backup power. This is to ensure vital medical equipment and appliances like sump pumps stay on during a power outage.

DO YOU HAVE PETS?

- Keep a photo of you and your pet together to prove ownership.
- Have your pets' vaccinations records and rabies vaccination tag.
- If you plan to evacuate, know where you can take your pets.
- Keep extra food available for your pet.

DO YOU HAVE A FAMILY MEMBER WITH MEDICAL NEEDS?

- Talk to your medical provider about a power outage plan for medical devices powered by electricity and refrigerated medicines.
- Back-up medical necessities
- Keep at least a two-week supply of medication on hand.
- Use an ID bracelet or a USB emergency ID band with important contact and medical information.
- Consider using a back-up power source to ensure vital medical equipment stays on during a power outage. (UPS or Battery/Solar Power Station)

DO YOU HAVE CHILDREN/DEPENDANTS?

- Prepare a mini emergency kit for school.
- Use an ID bracelet or a USB emergency ID band with important contact and medical information.
- Keep a favorite toy or security blanket with your family.

To reduce the inconvenience of a power outage we suggest that you may want to look at alternative power solutions. Such as Whole home generators, Whole home battery systems, or portable versions of both or either.



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