

# Preparation for Extended Power Shortage

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Preparing for an extended power shortage requires a combination of planning, supplies, and strategies to manage without electricity for an extended period. Here's a guide to help you prepare:

## 1. Emergency Kit

- **Water:** Store at least one gallon per person per day for at least three days.
- **Non-perishable Food:** Stock up on canned goods, dry foods, and other non-perishable items. Include a manual can opener.
- **Medication:** Have a supply of essential medications, and a first aid kit.
- **Flashlights and Batteries:** Keep multiple flashlights and an ample supply of batteries.
- **Battery-powered or Hand-crank Radio:** To stay informed about the situation.

## 2. Power Sources

- **Backup Generator:** Consider investing in a portable generator and ensure you have fuel stored safely.
- **Solar Chargers:** Portable solar panels and solar-powered battery packs can keep small devices charged.
- **Power Banks:** Keep several fully charged power banks to extend the life of your essential electronic devices.

## 3. Heating and Cooling

- **Blankets and Sleeping Bags:** Ensure you have warm blankets or sleeping bags if the outage occurs in cold weather.
- **Cooling Options:** Hand fans, cool packs, and staying hydrated help manage heat during hot weather.

## 4. Cooking

- **Portable Stove:** A camping stove or grill (with fuel) can be useful for cooking. Always use it outdoors to avoid carbon monoxide poisoning.
- **Ready-to-eat Foods:** Stock foods that don't require cooking, such as granola bars, canned fruit, and nuts.

## 5. Communication

- **Plan:** Establish a communication plan with family or neighbors in case phones are down.
- **Two-way Radios:** Consider walkie-talkies for local communication.

## 6. Water and Sanitation

- **Water Purification:** Have water purification tablets or a portable filter system.
- **Hygiene Supplies:** Stock up on moist towelettes, hand sanitizer, and trash bags.

## 7. Lighting

- **Candles and Matches:** Use with caution, ensuring they are placed safely away from flammable materials.
- **LED Lanterns:** Battery-powered lanterns provide longer-lasting light than flashlights.

## 8. Protecting Electronics

- **Surge Protectors:** Protect devices from power surges when the electricity returns.
- **Unplug Devices:** Disconnect non-essential electronics to prevent damage when power is restored.

## 9. Transportation

- **Full Gas Tank:** Keep your vehicle's gas tank full as gas stations may be inoperable during a power outage.
- **Bicycle:** Have a bicycle as a backup mode of transportation.

## 10. Cash

- **Cash on Hand:** ATMs and credit card machines may be down, so keep some cash available.

## 11. Safety and Security

- **Home Security:** Keep doors and windows locked, and consider battery-powered security alarms.
- **Neighborhood Watch:** Coordinate with neighbors to watch out for each other.

## 12. Entertainment and Mental Well-being

- **Books and Board Games:** Keep non-electronic forms of entertainment to stay occupied.
- **Routine:** Establish a daily routine to maintain a sense of normalcy.

## 13. Special Considerations

- **Medical Devices:** If anyone relies on powered medical devices, have a backup power plan in place.
- **Pets:** Ensure you have enough supplies for pets, including food, water, and medications.