



POWER OUTAGE EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS CHECKLIST

Before a Power Outage

- Sign up for local outage alerts from your utility provider
- Assemble a blackout kit with flashlights, extra batteries, headlamps, and a battery-powered lantern
- Store a battery-powered or hand-crank radio for emergency updates
- Stock up on non-perishable food and at least 1 gallon of water per person per day (for 3–7 days)
- Keep extra blankets, sleeping bags, and warm clothing accessible (for winter outages)
- Charge cell phones, laptops, and power banks fully before storms or expected outages
- Install surge protectors for sensitive electronics
- Have a manual can opener and disposable plates/utensils
- Test and maintain backup generators; store extra fuel safely
- Keep cash available — ATMs and card readers may not work
- Identify alternate charging methods (car charger, solar charger)
- Store prescription medications that require refrigeration in a portable cooler
- Plan for medical needs — backup batteries or alternate power sources for critical equipment
- Learn how to manually operate electric garage doors and gates
- Fill bathtubs or containers with water if a long outage is expected (for flushing/toilets)

During a Power Outage

- Use battery-powered lights — avoid open flames to reduce fire risk
- Unplug electronics and appliances to prevent damage when power is restored
- Keep refrigerator and freezer doors closed as much as possible (food stays cold ~4 hrs, frozen ~48 hrs)
- Listen to a battery-powered or hand-crank radio for updates
- Stay warm in winter outages by closing off unused rooms and wearing layered clothing
- In hot weather, stay hydrated and seek cooler shelter if possible
- Use generators outdoors and away from windows to prevent carbon monoxide poisoning
- Conserve phone battery by turning on low-power mode and reducing screen brightness

After a Power Outage

- Wait until power is stable before plugging in sensitive electronics
- Discard perishable food that has been above 40°F for more than 2 hours
- Restock blackout kit and replace used batteries
- Refill generator fuel and perform maintenance checks
- Review what worked and update your outage plan for next time