

How to Prepare Your Home for Power Outages

Most of the time, short-lived power outages are nothing more than a minor inconvenience. When the power outage lasts a long time – or when it occurs while certain appliances are running – it can do quite a bit of damage. Below are some of the best tips for preparing your home for a power outage to prevent damage and costly repairs.

Install Generators and Uninterruptible Power Supplies (UPS)

The most important thing you can do to help minimize the effects of a power outage in your home involves buying a generator that can power the most important appliances in your home. There's quite a bit that goes into purchasing a generator, so be sure you take the time to review things like size, features, and more. You should also [schedule professional installation](#) for additional peace of mind.

Generators are excellent for powering refrigerators and other crucial appliances, but in most cases, they cannot prevent the interruption of power that causes appliances and electronics to shut down. For this, you will need to invest in something called an [uninterruptible power supply](#), or UPS. These boxes have internal batteries that charge themselves when the power is on, and then in the event of an outage, those internal batteries continue to supply power to the connected device for a short period of time. It is always a great idea to connect PCs to UPS boxes to prevent data loss, hard drive corruption, and more.

Stock Up on Essentials

Though generators and UPS boxes can go a long way toward preventing things like food spoilage during a power outage, there are still things you should do to [get ready for a long-term outage](#). Though water in municipal areas may continue to flow during an outage, this is dependent upon many factors and it may not always be the case. You should stock up on at least one gallon of water per person per day for a period of three days and keep it in an accessible area.

Food is another important concern. In the event of a power outage, you should avoid opening your refrigerator or freezer doors at all costs to preserve the food inside them. Stock up on things like crackers, powdered milk, canned goods, dry cereal, peanut butter, and other nonperishable items that you can serve even without access to a stovetop. Make sure you store a can opener, pair of scissors, and other important tools with your nonperishable food items, as well.

Prepare Medical Devices

If you rely on a lifesaving electric medical device, the FDA provides [helpful information and printouts](#) to help you handle a power outage. Certain medical devices should be connected to UPS boxes to prevent their failure during a brownout or blackout and give you time to connect your device to your generator. Make certain that if your device delivers medication, you have an emergency supply that will last for at least three days. Finally, find out whether the device or the associated medication must be kept at a specific temperature and invest in a cooler or warming pad if necessary, too. Always consult with your doctor or pharmacist about protecting your devices and/or medications in situations like these.

Preparing for a power outage can help you avoid tens of thousands of dollars in damage associated with flooding, lost data, spoiled food, and much more. A professionally-installed generator that perfectly fits your needs, a good stock of essentials that will last your family for three days, and a plan for keeping essential medical devices functional will see you through power outages unscathed.