

Tips for Staying in Your Home During Extended Power Outages

General tips:

- Safety first! Be prepared to move around dark spaces. Have a first aid kit handy to use in case of accidents or burns.

- Avoid using candles if possible, especially if small children or pets are present in the home. Use battery powered lighting wherever possible.



- Keep freezers and refrigerators closed. The food will stay fresh longer if the doors are not opened.

- Gas or charcoal grills or camp stoves can be used to prepare meals during power outages. They must always be used outside the home to keep the dangerous fumes that they produce from posing a life-threatening situation inside your home.

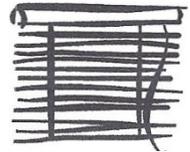


- Unplug all devices that have electronic components. These delicate devices can be damaged when the power comes back on. This would include computers and electronic gaming devices, video and audio systems and some kitchen appliances.

- Pool your resources with your neighbors. Share meals, share water, share warmth.
- Maintain a 3-day supply of non-perishable food and water, along with any medications you need. Stock up on batteries, too.
- Fuel up your vehicles and charge your mobile devices in advance.

Summer power outages:

- Dress comfortably and use natural ventilation to keep your home cool.
- Close the blinds and/or curtains during the day to keep sunlight out and avoid passive solar heating.
- Air conditioners should be turned off and unplugged during a power outage so that they will not come back on immediately when the power is restored. This will prevent potential damage to their motors.



Winter power outages:



- Dress warmly. Several thinner layers provide better insulation than a single layer of heavier clothing.
- Move to a single room, preferably one with few windows, ideally on the south side of the home.
- Open curtains and blinds on sunny days to take advantage of passive solar heating. Close curtains and blinds at night to reduce heat loss.
- If you use an alternative heat source such as a kerosene heater, be sure to follow all operator instructions carefully to avoid fire or injury. Proper ventilation is extremely important to keep life-threatening fumes outside the home.



- Freezing pipes can be avoided in most cases by allowing a small trickle of water to flow through the pipes. This is not a practical solution if the home has a well.