

Safeguard Your Home Against Power Outages

Power outages are common and are on the rise, in part due to an ever-increasing demand for power and limited resources to deliver it.

To make matters worse, power outage problems are likely to grow: some scientists warn that global warming could increase the frequency and intensity of storms that can cause power outages, leaving you and your neighbors in the dark.

Power outages can damage home appliances, cause food spoilage, keep sump pumps from working, damage electric wells and water purifiers — even compromise medical equipment that can put a family member's safety at risk.

To better prepare for a major power outage, follow the tips below — or consider a whole house backup generator for even greater convenience and peace of mind (contact Paraco to learn more).

Before a power outage:

- Register life-sustaining medical equipment with your utility company.
- Make sure you have light sticks, flashlights, battery-powered radio with extra batteries and a wind-up clock.
- Have a corded telephone available — cordless phones will not work.
- Know how to disengage your automatic garage door opener so you can enter/exit.

During a power outage:

- Turn off lights and electrical appliances except for refrigerator and freezer. Leave one lamp on so you will know when power is restored.
- Unplug computers and other sensitive equipment to protect them from possible surges.
- Conserve water, especially if you use well water.
- Never use gas ovens, gas ranges, lanterns, barbecues, or construction heaters for indoor heating.
- If you're using a kerosene heater, maintain proper ventilation to avoid a build-up of carbon monoxide.
- Avoid candles if possible — use battery-operated flashlights or glow sticks
- Stay away from downed power lines and sagging trees with broken limbs.
- Use and store food carefully to prevent food borne illness when refrigeration is not available.
- Throw out meat, seafood, dairy products and cooked food that do not feel cold.