

Preparing for when a Power Outage Strikes

Power outages are increasingly common. They can be caused by severe weather, high energy demand, fallen trees, accidents, and even cyber attacks. Regardless of the reason, losing electric power in our homes and neighborhoods can profoundly impact our lives and even short-term outages can have life-threatening implications if we are not prepared.

What can you do now to ensure you are ready for these inevitable events? And what are some best practices once the power does go out to keep your family and property safe?



Have a family communication plan.

BEFORE AN OUTAGE

Outages are always easier to handle with a little preparation. Follow these tips to be ready anytime.

- Have a family communication plan.
- Make an **emergency kit**.
- Know your and your family's medical needs.
 - Talk to your medical provider about a power outage plan for medical devices powered by electricity and refrigerated medicines.*
- If you have a garage door, know how to manually open it.

If you know an outage is possible **in the next 24 hours** (impending weather, high usage):

- Charge your electronics: phone, laptop, etc.
- Fill your vehicle's gas tank
- Purchase or freeze additional ice in plastic containers to help store cold food in coolers
- Fill your bathtub or other containers with water for cooking, washing, or flushing toilets.
- Have a plan to move yourself, family, and pets to an alternate location, in case of an extended outage.

BUILD YOUR EMERGENCY KIT

- Flashlights
- Battery-powered lanterns
- Extra batteries
- Battery-powered or wind-up radio
- Nonperishable food (that does not require cooking)
- Manual can opener
- Drinking/cooking water
- Blankets and/or sleeping bags
- Coats, hats, gloves (for warmth in cold weather)
- First aid kit
- Fire extinguisher
- Cash
- Necessities for infants, small children, pets, or family members with special needs.

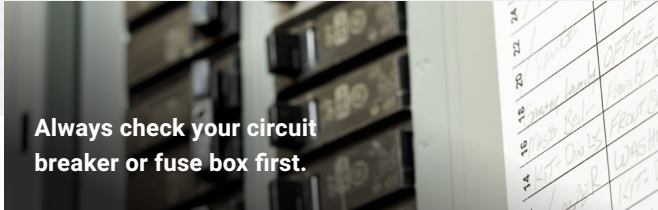
WHEN AN OUTAGE HAPPENS

Ensure the outage isn't really a blown fuse or tripped circuit breaker.

- Check your main electric panel for one or more switches flipped to "off."

If your home is equipped with a circuit breaker, resetting it should restore your power.

If your home has a fuse box, contact your property manager to have the blown fuse replaced to restore power.



Always check your circuit breaker or fuse box first.

Not a fuse or breaker? Check if power is out in your community.

- **Suspect an outage? Report it to Nationwide Energy Partners. Call 614-918-2031 or 877-818-2637.**

Our NEP Resident Support specialists are available weekdays from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m., but we do offer 24/7 after-hours emergency support.

Resident support and NEP field personnel will be notified immediately to begin the troubleshooting process and provide up-to-date information via our website, NationwideEnergyPartners.com.

DURING

- Keep freezers and refrigerators doors closed.

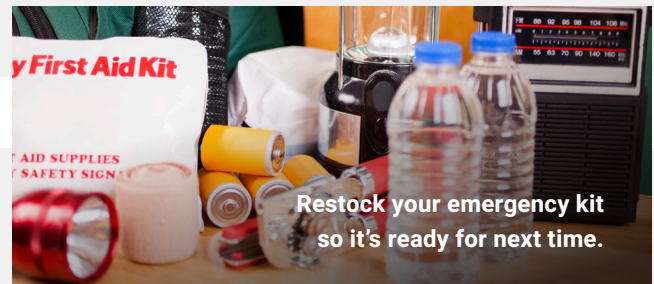
The refrigerator will remain cold for about four hours if kept shut. A full freezer will maintain temperature for about 48 hours.

During a snow storm, snow drifts can be used as a makeshift freezer for food (beware of attracting animals) and snow can be melted as an additional water source.

- **Do not** use a gas stove or oven to heat your home.

Never use generators, grills, camp stoves, or other gasoline, propane, natural gas, or charcoal burning devices inside your home, garage, or partially enclosed area.

- Unplug electronics from outlets.
- Leave one light on so you will know when power has returned.
- Make certain all stove burners are turned off to prevent a safety hazard when power is restored.
- Check with local officials for heating and cooling locations open near you.
- In cold weather, wear a hat, several layers of loose fitting, lightweight, warm clothing.
- In hot weather, wear loose, lightweight, light-colored clothing and drink plenty of water.



Restock your emergency kit so it's ready for next time.

AFTER

- Throw away food that has been exposed to temperatures of 40 degrees or higher for two hours or more, or has an unusual odor, color, or texture.
- If power is out for more than a day, discard medication that should be refrigerated, unless the drug's label says otherwise. Consult your doctor or pharmacist immediately for a new supply.

- Reset clocks without a backup power supply, including those on your electronics and appliances (microwave, stove, coffee pot, etc.)
- Restock any supplies you have used from your emergency kit, so it is stocked for future power outages.