

Power Outage Checklist

A practical before, during, and after checklist for lighting, food safety, communication, backup power, and household comfort.

Before an outage

■ Flashlights placed where people can find them	■ Battery banks charged
■ NOAA radio tested	■ Fridge and freezer thermometers installed
■ Critical devices identified	■ Extension cords used safely

When power goes out

■ Check on household members	■ Turn off unsafe appliances
■ Keep fridge and freezer closed	■ Use battery lights before candles
■ Text instead of calling when networks are busy	■ Check local alerts

Food and water

■ Note the outage start time	■ Use cooler plan if needed
■ Keep drinking water accessible	■ Avoid opening freezer repeatedly
■ Cook perishable food safely	■ Discard food when unsure

Communication and comfort

■ Phone on low-power mode	■ Backup internet tested if available
■ Radio or hotspot powered only when needed	■ Neighbors checked when safe
■ Blankets or cooling plan ready	■ Medication needs reviewed

After power returns

Recharge battery banks, reset clocks and alarms, replace used supplies, and write down what would make the next outage easier.