Prepare for Electricity & Water Outages

Ready for the Unexpected



YOUR **SMART** SOLUTION

Loadshedding may have eased, but ageing or failing infrastructure can still interrupt essential services without warning. A practical household plan helps protect people, property, food, data and daily routines.

Start With a 72-Hour Mindset

Keep essential supplies together, review them regularly and make sure everyone in the household knows where they are and how emergency access works.

1. BUILD AN OUTAGE KIT

- Battery-powered torches, with spare fresh batteries; keep a small torch next to the bed.
- Fully charged power banks and car chargers for mobile phones.
- Thermos flasks, a manual can opener, basic first-aid items and essential contact numbers.
- Use candles only with extreme care: never leave them unattended and keep them away from children.
- Emergency lights that light up during power interruption.
- Portable camp Gas Stove.
- Gas Stove and Burner.

2. STORE WATER WISELY

- Keep a practical reserve of safe drinking water in clean, sealed containers.
- Keep separate water for hygiene, toilet flushing and basic cleaning.
- Rotate stored water, label containers and inspect for leaks or contamination.
- When supply returns, allow taps to run briefly if water is discoloured; follow official local guidance.

3. PROTECT FOOD & MEDICINE

- Keep refrigerator and freezer doors closed. Frozen bottles of water can help maintain a lower temperature.
- Prepare simple meals beforehand and keep shelf-stable food available.
- For refrigerated medication, confirm safe storage limits with your doctor or pharmacist.
- Discard food if its safety is uncertain; do not rely only on smell or appearance.

4. SECURE ACCESS & SAFETY

- Know how to operate manual releases on electric gates, garage doors and access svystems.
- Carry a house key if the garage is normally your main entrance.
- Check that alarms, electric fencing and access-control backups are maintained.
- Install solar-powered security or garden lights where suitable.
- Generator for emergency power supply to essential appliances or availability when required.
- Charge mobile devices whenever possible.

When an Outage Starts

1. CONFIRM

Check whether the outage affects your unit, complex or wider area.

2. PROTECT

Switch off appliances that were running and unplug sensitive equipment – which can possibly get damaged with power surges.

3. CONSERVE

Limit water use, lighting and backup power to essentials.

4. COMMUNICATE

Report the fault and share verified updates with household members.

Longer-Term Resilience: Choose Safe, Scalable Solutions

Prioritise essential services first. Backup systems must be sized for actual needs, installed correctly and operated within property, safety and insurance requirements.

OPTION	BEST USED FOR	KEY CONSIDERATIONS
Generator	Selected essential circuits during interruptions.	Correct sizing, ventilation, noise control, no back-feed, qualified installation, Certificate of Compliance and updated insurance.
Direct solar without battery	Reducing daytime municipal electricity use.	It normally shuts down during a grid outage; use an accredited installer and obtain required approvals.
Solar with battery backup	Essential loads during interruptions, with daytime solar charging and cost saving.	Battery and inverter must match needs. Separate essential from high-consumption loads.
Inverter with battery	Short-term backup of essential equipment without solar panels.	Runtime is limited by battery capacity. High-consumption appliances are generally excluded – Batteries are charged from the grid.
Hot-water alternatives	Reducing reliance on a standard electric geyser.	Solar geysers, heat pumps, gas geysers, insulation and timers have different costs, dependencies and approval requirements.

Before you Install or Buy

DEFINE ESSENTIALS
List only the equipment that must remain operational.

COMPARE QUOTES
Use reputable suppliers and compare system scope, warranties and support.

USE QUALIFIED INSTALLERS
Require an accredited installer and Certificate of Compliance. Consider guarantees, warranties and expected lifespan.

GET PERMISSION
Follow Body Corporate, HOA, municipal and other relevant requirements.

UPDATE INSURANCE
Tell your insurer about generators, solar, batteries or gas installations.

MAINTAIN & TEST
Test backup systems, access releases and stored supplies regularly.

Household Readiness Check

- Emergency kit and water reserve checked
- Phones and power banks charged
- Manual access procedure understood
- Essential-load list agreed
- Local fault-reporting details saved
- Backups, batteries and alarms tested

Important Safety Note

Never connect a generator, inverter or solar system in a way that can feed electricity back into the internal grid.

Gas and electrical installations require appropriate ventilation, safety controls and certified installation.

The Savvy Way.

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