



Home power outage solutions

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A power outage can be a minor inconvenience, a threat to health and safety, or anything in between. But unlike the natural disasters that often precede them, blackouts aren't relegated to specific regions the way earthquakes, hurricanes, and tornados are--just about everybody can experience one, especially now that extreme and unpredictable weather is pushing the limits of electrical grids.

Honda generators have an excellent reputation and recognition in the industry as the gold standard, but the hitch is that this quality comes at a cost: The EU2200i is typically priced over \$1,000, about \$400 more than other gas options. But its ease of use and dependability make it worth the premium. Also, don't forget that you'll need a high quality extension cord in order to get all of that generated power into your home.

The ER310's convenient size makes it comfortable to carry. It was also one of the few radios we tested that lived up to their crank-generating claims: We found that just one minute of cranking produced 10 minutes of radio time or a few minutes of flashlight use. Plus, its durable body can stand up to heavy rain or a drop onto a hard surface.

If there's an emergency alert in your area, the ER310's built-in NOAA audible alarm and flashing display will make sure you notice. When the siren sounds and the lights begin blaring--it can be quite clamorous--you can press any button to switch the radio to your preferred (preprogrammed) NOAA weather channel to get the news.

The flashlight also has an SOS blinking pattern, and the radio has a button that sets off a high-pitched tone--beyond the range of human hearing--to attract the attention of rescue dogs if you're really in distress.

A surge protector won't keep anything powered in a blackout, but it will protect your electronics when the grid blinks on and off, whether the effect lasts for a few seconds or a few days. When your power flickers, there's a decent chance that the voltage--normally around 110 volts--is dropping or surging, and that can degrade or seriously damage your electronics. We tested surge protectors by sending a 5,000 V spike through them and measuring how much of that extra voltage got through to the other side, where your TV, computer, or stereo system would be plugged in.

Top pick Mophie Powerstation Pro AC The best portable laptop charger This compact, lightweight portable battery can charge even the most power-hungry laptops while they're in use.

If an outage happens during a workday, the Mophie Powerstation Pro AC offers more than 100 W of power output and enough capacity to bring a dead MacBook Air battery up to 90% charged--even during heavy use with the screen brightness turned up. It has a variety of output ports, including two USB-C Power Delivery (PD) ports, one USB-A ports, and an AC outlet.



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Our readers have recommended that we review inflatable solar-powered lanterns, a category of products meant to illuminate surroundings and prevent unexpected encounters in the dark. These floating lights are equipped with a solar panel and a cable with which you can charge your phone.

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