

Start your household plan

If power, water or stores become unavailable, what does your household need first?

TODAY | Find, count, agree

- ☐ Find your local official emergency information and alert signup.
- ☐ Count usable water, no-power food, lights and charging supplies.
- ☐ Agree an out-of-area contact and write down the number.
- ☐ Choose one gap, one owner and one completion date.

NEXT | Make a measured purchase

People x days x 1 US gallon/person/day = baseline water gallons. CDC recommends at least three days and trying for two weeks if possible; allow for additional needs and pets separately. Example: 2 people x 3 days x 1 = 6 US gallons. Three days is not universally sufficient.

MAINTAIN | Put a date on it

Review supplies and contact details regularly and after use or household changes. Follow product dates; replace self-filled stored water every six months per CDC.

Safety and official guidance

Follow local officials on whether and when to leave. Never use generators indoors or in garages; CDC advises outdoor operation more than 20 feet from windows, doors and vents. Never use charcoal or portable gas camp stoves indoors.

Free official resources | Reviewed September 20, 2026

CDC water: cdc.gov/water-emergency/about/how-to-create-and-store-an-emergency-water-supply.html

CDC CO: cdc.gov/carbon-monoxide/about/index.html

Red Cross planning: redcross.org/get-help/how-to-prepare-for-emergencies/make-a-plan.html

Original planning worksheet; no government endorsement or guaranteed safety.

My next task / owner / date
