

POWER OUTAGE CHECKLIST FOR HOMEOWNERS

BEFORE AN OUTAGE

PLAN & COMMUNICATE

- Create or update your family emergency plan (meeting place, communication list).
- Save important phone numbers (utility, electrician, emergency services) in a printed list.
- Sign up for local emergency and power outage alerts.

EMERGENCY SUPPLIES

- Flashlights and headlamps (plus extra batteries).
- Battery-powered or hand-crank radio.
- Portable phone chargers / power banks.
- First aid kit, personal medications, and copies of prescriptions
- Non-perishable food (at least 3 days) and bottled water (1 gallon per person per day).
- Blankets and seasonal clothing.
- Tools: wrench/pliers, battery spare bulbs, manual can opener.

HOME SYSTEMS PREPARATION

- Know how to manually open your garage door.
- Familiarize yourself with your breaker panel and main shut-offs (electric/gas/water).
- Install surge protectors where appropriate.
- Ensure smoke and carbon monoxide detectors have fresh batteries.
- Keep vehicles' fuel tanks at least half full.
- Maintain and test backup power systems (UPS units, generators) regularly.

BACKUP POWER (Optional but Recommended)

- Install an uninterruptible power supply (UPS) for computers and critical electronics.
- Store fresh fuel safely for generators (following label recommendations).
- Consider a Generac standby generator installed/sized by a professional.



WHEN THE POWER GOES OUT

IMMEDIATE CHECKS

- Determine whether the outage is isolated to your home: check neighbors and street lights.
- Check your circuit breaker panel for a tripped breaker; reset if safe to do so.

COMMUNICATE WITH UTILITY

- Report the outage to your local utility and note any details they provide (cause and estimated restoration).
- Protect Your Electronics and Appliances
- Unplug or turn off electronics and major appliances to reduce risk of surge damage when power returns.

LIGHTING & SAFETY

- Use flashlights or battery-powered lanterns – avoid candles for fire safety.
- Keep one porch or outdoor light on (if safe) to signal when power returns.

FOOD & TEMPERATURE

- Keep refrigerator and freezer doors closed. An unopened fridge holds cold ~4 hours; a full freezer ~48 hours.
- Move perishables to coolers with ice if needed.
- In extreme heat or cold, gather in the safest, most insulated room with blankets/clothing.

GENERATOR USE (if available)

- Run portable generators outdoors away from windows/vents to avoid carbon monoxide risk.
- Use heavy-duty outdoor extension cords rated for appliances.

AFTER POWER IS RESTORED

- Plug in electronics one-at-a-time.
- Check food temperatures; discard anything above 40°F for more than 2 hours.
- Recharge power banks and restock emergency supplies used.
- Evaluate how your preparations worked and update this checklist as needed.

EMERGENCY QUICK REFERENCE

Task	Done
Report outage to utility	<input type="checkbox"/>
Check breakers	<input type="checkbox"/>
Unplug electronics	<input type="checkbox"/>
Illuminate with flashlights	<input type="checkbox"/>
Preserve fridge/freezer contents	<input type="checkbox"/>
Charge devices	<input type="checkbox"/>
Run generator safely (if available)	<input type="checkbox"/>
Call Clinton Electric 410-453-9800	<input type="checkbox"/>