

Electrical Failure Plan for staying safe:

What you can do to be ready



Table of contents

About this plan	4
People	9
Things you need	12
Talking to people	19
Getting light for your home	22
Being comfortable	23
Staying safe at home	32
How to find out more information	36

About this plan



This plan was made in an easy to read way.

There are pictures to explain some ideas.



This plan has some hard words.

The first time you see a hard word:

- The hard word will be in **bold**.
- The hard word will be explained what it means.



You can ask for help to read and complete this plan. A friend, family member, or **support person** can help you.

A support person is someone who helps you with things you find hard to do by yourself.

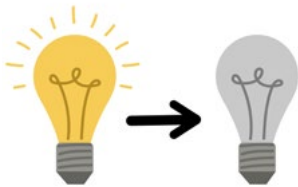


This plan is for you to use when there is an **electrical failure** at home.

An electrical failure is when the **electricity** stops working.

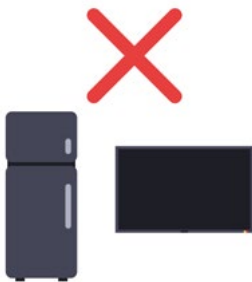
Electricity is power that travels through wires to your home.

It helps you to use the things you need.



When an electrical failure happens:

- The lights turn off.



- The TV and fridge stop working.



- Phones and computers do not charge.



This plan will help you to:

- Know what to do.



- Be safe.



We want you to be ready when electrical failures happen.

There are 6 areas to plan for:



1. Your support people.



2. Things you need.



3. Things you need at home.



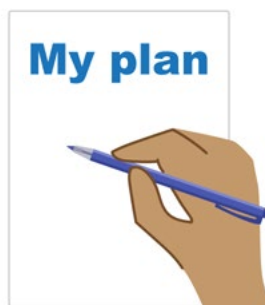
4. Getting light for your home.



5. Being comfortable.



6. Staying safe at home.



You can use this paper to help you complete your Electrical Failure Plan.

You can get a copy of the plan from this website:

https://poweroutageplan.com.au/checklist/StayingSafe_BeReady_er_v1-2025.pdf

People



Everyone in your house and who lives near you should know what to do when an electrical failure happens.



Make sure you know who your electricity company is.

Write down their phone number and website.



You should sign up online to get new information from them.



Choose 1 or 2 people who live in your house to be in charge of this plan.

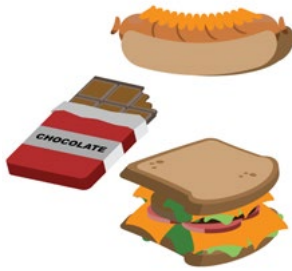


Talk to everyone in your house about what each of you will do when the electricity stops working.



Think about who will look after your pets if you have pets.

Things you need



Make sure you have enough food and water for 3 to 7 days, including for pets.



You should have food ready that does not need to be kept in a fridge.

This might be:



- Canned soup.



- Crackers.



- Pasta.



If you have special food needs, it is a good idea to have food for more than 7 days.



Think about if you might need a **generator** to make your water taps and toilet work.

A generator is a machine that helps to make electricity.



If you can, have a different way to cook food.

This might be a:

- Camp stove.



- Barbeque.

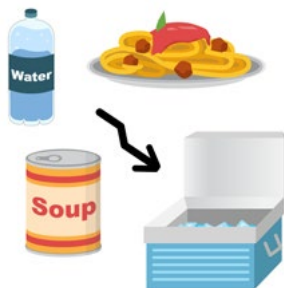


Make sure you have enough **fuel** to make these work.

Fuel is liquid that makes machines work, like gas.



If a baby lives in your house, think about a safe way to heat milk for them.



If the electricity does not work after a few hours, keep food safe with:

- Coolers.



- A container you can carry around with ice packs inside.



Keep your fridge and freezer doors closed to keep food cold.

Have a **First-Aid kit**.



This is a small box or bag with things to help if someone gets hurt or feels sick.

It has wipes and bandages inside.



Have enough **medications** for 3 to 7 days, including for your pets.

Check if your medications need to be kept cold.

Medications are medicines that help you to feel better and stay healthy.

This might be:



- Pills you swallow.



- Liquids you drink.



- Creams you put on your skin.



If you use **medical equipment** at home to stay alive, make another plan for what to do if the electricity stops working.

Medical equipment are machines that help you to stay healthy.

This might be a breathing tube.



Make sure you have enough petrol or electric charge in your car.



Think of another way to leave your home if your car does not work.

Talking to people



Know how to talk to family, friends, and other people if you need help fast.



Keep a charger you can carry around to make sure your phone works.

Make sure that the charger is fully charged, if you know there is going to be very bad weather.



Have a radio that uses **batteries** or works by turning a small handle with your hand.

Batteries are small boxes that keep electricity.

They make phones and torches work.

This is an important way to get information about the weather if your phone or internet does not work.



Write down your local radio channel.



Talk to everyone in your house about:

- What you will do when there is no electricity.



- How you will talk to each other when you are not at home.

You might be:



- At work.



- Seeing a doctor.



Talk to people who live near you about how you will talk to each other to check that everything is okay.



Share your plan with them.



Ask someone who does not live near you to check if you are ok, when your phone and internet stops working.

Make sure everyone in your house knows who this person is.

Getting light for your home



Make sure you have light when the electricity stops working.



Keep torches in your home where they are easy to find.

Make sure you have extra batteries for your torches.



Try not to use candles.

This is because candles can be knocked over by accident and cause fires.



Put other lights that use batteries in rooms around the house.

This is so that they are easy to find when it is dark.

Being comfortable

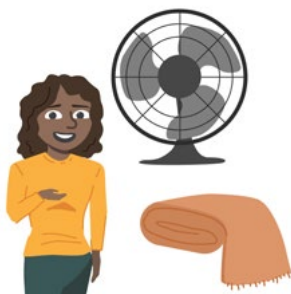


Make sure everyone in your house is comfortable when it is:

- Hot.



- Cold.



Think of ways you can stay warm or cool.



If your air conditioner stops working when it is very hot, you can go to a **Cool Centre**.

A Cool Centre is a public space that has air conditioners where you can go to stay cool.

You can find more information about this on your local council website.



You can stay warm by:

- Wearing clothes on top of each other.



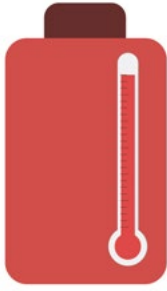
- Using blankets or sleeping bags.



- Closing the curtains.



- Filling gaps in the house where wind blows in with towels or fabric.



- Using hot water bottles.



- Staying in one room.



- Moving around.



- Wearing a hat or keeping your head covered.



You can keep cool by:

- Wearing less clothes.



- Using small fans that work with batteries or chargers.



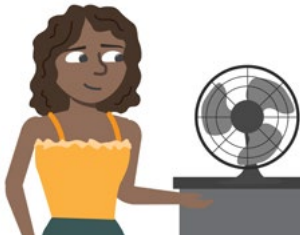
- Closing the curtains to block out the sun.



- Drinking lots of water.



- Holding a wet cloth against your skin where you can feel your heartbeat.



- Staying in the coolest room in your home.



- Using ice packs.



- Having cold showers.



Think about ways to keep calm when you are stressed.

You can stay calm by:



- Listening to music.



- Reading a book or magazine.



- Writing down your thoughts.



- Taking deep breaths and being quiet while sitting still.



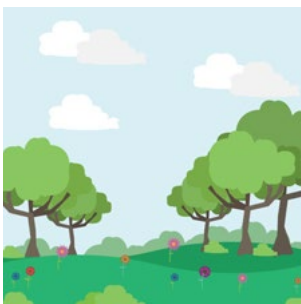
- Spending time with the people who live in the houses next to you.



If it is safe, you can go outside.

You could:

- Go to the beach, pool, or river.



- Go to the park.



- Go for a walk, jog, or ride your bike.



If kids are looking for things to do, they could:

- Play games.



- Colour in pictures.



- Tell stories.



If you feel very sad when an electrical failure happens or after it, you can talk to someone from Beyond Blue for free.



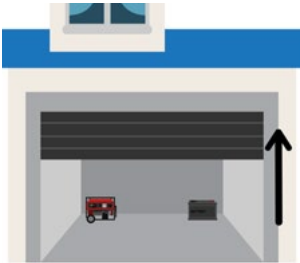
You can talk to them on the phone.

Their number is 1300 224 636.

Staying safe at home

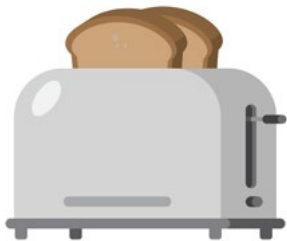


Make sure your home is safe and works well when an electrical failure happens.



Know how to open and close doors without electricity.

This might be a garage door.



For things around your house that use electricity, turn them off at the switch.

This might be a toaster.



Think about how to stop these things from being broken by unexpected and dangerous electricity.



Move things out of the way where people walk inside and outside your home.

This is so you can be safe when moving around in the dark.

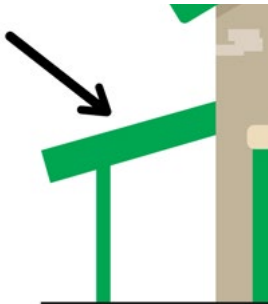


Check that there is nothing unsafe in your home.

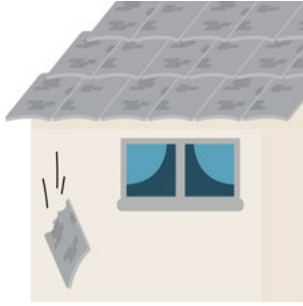
This could be:



- Loose couches or tables.



- Shelters.



- Falling roof tiles.



Plan how you will leave home if you are not safe and need to leave fast.



Pretend that you need to leave home fast.

Check that your plan works well.



Make sure that you have things you need, including:

- Important papers in a container, so they do not get wet.



- A First-Aid kit.



Keep a copy of your plan with a torch, so it will be easy to find.

Your plan should also have the phone numbers and email addresses of important people who can help right away.

How to find out more information



For more information, you can visit this website:

<https://poweroutageplan.com.au/>



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