PRINTABLE CHECKLIST

What can a power station run in a power cut? Best UK picks

For most homes a power station of about 1,000 Wh is the right size for a power cut. It runs a router, lamps, phones and a laptop for a day or more and a fridge-freezer for around 14 hours, provided its output clears the compressor's 600 W starting surge. For Wi-Fi, phones and a lamp only, a 300 Wh unit at around £200 is enough. Heaters and kettles drain any size

- [ ] List the devices you would really run and their watts
- [ ] Do the sum: watts x hours, divided by 0.85
- [ ] Check continuous output beats your biggest load, and surge beats 600 W for a fridge
- [ ] Prefer LiFePO4 and a pure sine wave outlet
- [ ] Test it on the router and fridge on a normal day
- [ ] Store it charged indoors and top up every three months
- [ ] Keep the cables, an extension lead and a torch with it
- [ ] Plan heat and hot water without it: layers, flask, stove used outdoors