PRINTABLE CHECKLIST

# Do you need a generator for a power cut? UK safety and best buys

Most UK homes do not need a generator: the government's Be Ready list asks for a torch, an FM radio and a charged power bank. If you lose power for days, a petrol inverter generator of about 2,000 W runs a fridge-freezer, lights and chargers. It must run outdoors, away from doors and windows, never be plugged into a house socket, and you can store up to 30 litres

- [ ] Decide whether batteries would do the job before buying a generator
- [ ] Choose an inverter model of about 2,000 W for a fridge-freezer plus small loads
- [ ] Pick the running spot outdoors in daylight, clear of doors, windows and vents
- [ ] Fit an audible EN 50291 carbon monoxide alarm near the generator side and where people sleep
- [ ] Never plug the generator into a house socket; use extension leads or a changeover switch
- [ ] Buy heavy-duty outdoor extension leads and unwind them fully
- [ ] Store no more than 30 litres of petrol, in proper cans, in a garage or shed
- [ ] Let the engine cool before refuelling, and refuel before dark
- [ ] Keep a fire extinguisher suitable for flammable liquids nearby
- [ ] Run the generator in blocks, not overnight
- [ ] Test-run it every month or two and rotate the stored petrol
- [ ] Keep the manual, funnel, oil and leads together