PRINTABLE CHECKLIST

Can a power cut damage appliances? Surge protection for UK homes

Losing power rarely damages appliances. The risk is the brief voltage spike and flickering when supply returns, and computers shutting down mid-task. The Be Ready campaign says to unplug the TV and PC during a cut for this reason. Leave the fridge and freezer plugged in, switch off anything that heats, and use a surge protected lead for times you are out. A UPS

- [ ] Unplug the TV, set-top box and games console when a cut starts
- [ ] Unplug the computer, monitor and any network drive
- [ ] Switch off ovens, irons, fryers, heaters and straighteners
- [ ] Leave the fridge and freezer plugged in with doors shut
- [ ] Leave one lamp switched on to show when power returns
- [ ] Wait a few minutes after power returns before reconnecting
- [ ] Plug things back in one at a time, heaters last
- [ ] Check surge lead indicator lights after every cut
- [ ] Never plug a generator into a house socket