PRINTABLE CHECKLIST

Can you use your car for power in a power cut? Charging guide

A car can charge phones and power banks from its USB or 12 V socket, and a small inverter runs a laptop, router or lamps, but not a kettle, heater or fridge through the dashboard socket. Some electric cars can run a fridge-freezer through a vehicle-to-load socket. Only run the engine outdoors, never in a garage, keep half a tank or battery, and expect petrol

- [ ] Fast 12 V USB-C charger and cables in the glovebox
- [ ] Fuel or charge kept above half in winter
- [ ] Know your 12 V socket's fuse rating
- [ ] Inverter tested with the laptop or router you would run
- [ ] Jump starter charged in the last three months
- [ ] Know where the manual release is on an electric garage door
- [ ] Engine run outdoors only, exhaust clear of snow
- [ ] Blanket, water, torch and paper map in the car
- [ ] Cash for fuel if card machines are down
- [ ] No more than 30 litres of petrol stored, in approved containers, outside the house