PRINTABLE CHECKLIST

What stops working in a power cut? A UK guide to what still runs

In a power cut, everything on mains power stops at once: lights, sockets, broadband, digital landlines, electric cooking and gas central heating, whose controls need electricity. Battery devices, FM radio, cars and many gas hobs keep working. In a wider outage, mobile networks may work only temporarily, card payments, cash machines, fuel pumps and traffic

- [ ] Know which of your appliances stop, including the boiler
- [ ] Keep a torch or lantern where you can find it in the dark
- [ ] Keep a battery or wind-up FM radio
- [ ] Keep a power bank charged
- [ ] Store 3 litres of drinking water per person per day for three days
- [ ] Keep some cash in small notes and coins
- [ ] Keep three days of food that needs no cooking or fridge
- [ ] Keep the car's fuel tank above half
- [ ] Keep a few days of credit on a prepayment meter in winter
- [ ] Test mains smoke alarms' backup batteries
- [ ] Fit an audible carbon monoxide alarm