



# Battery backup for home freezer

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Power outages during a disaster can be nerve-wracking. Imagine your freezer full of nutritious food suddenly at risk, along with the money you invested in stocking it. As a prepared parent, you know keeping your family safe includes keeping their food fresh. This article will equip you with a plan to create a quiet backup power system for your freezer, ensuring peace of mind and a steady supply of healthy meals - no matter the emergency.

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Many people who conscientiously prepare their family for disasters find the biggest challenge to be assembling and maintaining a nutritious and varied menu of storable food. In addition to long-term items like freeze-dried food (which can include proteins), Meals Ready-to-Eat (MRE's), and meal-stretching dry staples like rice and beans, one additional store of high-energy and nutrient-dense foods is a freezer containing various meats.

But while you may stock a freezer with meat in case of emergencies, the power grid may be affected by the disaster, and suddenly you find yourself with the prospect of thawing meat and no power to cook the meat if you needed to. This article will give you a plan to maintain power for your valuable cache of meat in the event the lights go out.

We're going to talk about two main ways of providing quiet backup power to your freezer: a battery-charger-inverter setup, and an all-in-one portable power station. In addition to what I'm explaining here, there are hundreds of online videos and web pages that will help you build your system. At the end of the day, it's not that difficult and you can spread the cost of buying individual components over several months if needed.

This quiet backup power system works as follows:

This backup power setup maintains your frozen food quietly, which in an extended crisis won't attract potential predators with the loud noise of a portable generator. Here's how to quickly build a quiet way to power your freezer if grid electricity is not available:

The exact manner you will assemble your system will depend on the items you choose, so follow the instructions for the individual components of your system. That will tell you what wiring and fuses you'll need to connect up the components.

You may already have what's commonly called a portable power station. These combinations of a deep-cycle



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battery, charger, and inverter are packaged together, usually in a plastic case. Better versions of these power stations also have a "Transfer Switch," which monitors the state of your household power and will immediately switch to the power station's battery power if the house power fails. And most power stations have some kind of visual screen or indicator lights to help you monitor the amount of power available.

While an integrated power supply offers a simpler way to ensure your freezer's power supply, most power stations cannot add more capacity when needed. However, if you choose your power station carefully, with an eye to future expansion, you'll find there are power stations that can be accessorized with an additional battery and connecting cable or even a "parallel" cable that connects two identical power stations to provide higher-capacity outlets.

Last year, under blue skies and no disaster in sight, my power suddenly went out for 2 1/2 days due to a failed underground electric cable. Talk about a real-world exercise of my preparedness! Fortunately I had several ways of providing power for both my freezer and refrigerator, and while I had to improvise a few things, I lost no food and kept outside lights on at night for security. If I had not had a way to power the freezer in this period, I would have lost hundreds of dollars worth of food.

The reason why it's possible to assemble a backup source of power for your freezer is that freezers really don't use a lot of power. Once the freezer chills things down to the desired temperature, the insulation efficiently keeps the food frozen with just an occasional run of the freezer's compressor. My freezer is rated to use only \$26 in electricity per year, and it cost me less than \$200. When operating, it only uses 1.1 amps of power, which is a low level.

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