

Top 5 Ideas To Light Your House In A Power Outage

A power outage during the night is always a problem. Such situations usually happen when you least expect it. You may find it difficult to find your backup lights such as a flashlight, candles, or lantern.

The good news is there are a number of light sources and ideas you can use to light your house during a power outage. The following light sources are all valuable resources to you when you need light due to a blackout:

- Open flame light sources
- Perpetual light sources
- Manually powered lights
- Solar-powered lights
- Chemical light sources
- Battery-powered lights

Granted, some may be more sustainable than the rest. You need to try and foresee, how long will the power outage lasts? Some outages last a few hours while others last a few days. Try to stay informed and plan for a solution that will handle short and long power blackouts. On that note, let's talk about some basic things to know and consider before discussing ideas to light your house during a blackout.

Basic Lighting Education

The intensity of light is measured in lumens. The lumen rating indicates how bright is the light. Below you will see a table comparing different light sources and their respective ratings in lumens. This will give you an idea of how bright different lights are. At the same time, it will help you plan. For

instance, [LED Light Bulbs consume very little power](#) and produce bright lights.

Light Comparison Table

Light Source	Lumen Rating
110 watt standard light bulb	1850
18 watt LED (light-emitting diode) bulb	1340
Two mantle propane lantern	Up to 1540
Two mantles white gas lantern	Up to 800
12 watt CFL (compact fluorescent lamp)	760
40-watt incandescent light bulb	463
4 watt LED	300
Kerosene lamp	20 – 100
Candle	13
Glow stick	4

Lighting Requirements

Start by determining your lighting needs. Think of the different lighting needs for your daily tasks. Each of the lighting sources mentioned above will serve a unique purpose. For example, a lantern will offer the best light for an area such as around a dinner table. On the other hand, a headlamp will offer great hands-free light.

You may not need a lot of light such that the soft glow of a fireplace will suffice. You may also need a bright light for a specific task. In some cases, a flameless lighting option will be the best solution.

An open flame can be dangerous especially for houses with young children. Open flames are also risky due to various dangers such as a gas leak. It is also hazardous if you are in a sealed room as it will consume valuable oxygen.

Things to Consider



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For example, bright battery-powered flashlights have a tendency of consuming a lot of batteries. Solar flashlights need to be recharged over and over again. When you consider these factors, you will be able to plan ahead. This will help you light your house in the event of a power outage.

Now that you know the different lumen ratings, lighting requirements, and have some basic lighting education, you can look at the most common options available.

There are five main lighting options that will work during a power blackout:

1. Candles
2. Kerosene Lamps
3. Solar Powered LED lamps
4. Hand lanterns
5. Flashlights

Candles

In most households all over the world, candles are usually a good option for any [emergency source of light](#). It is an ancient source of light, and although they are used on different occasions including weddings, birthdays, and so forth, they can be used as the best lighting backup. They usually come in different scents and colors.

Some people find candles to be the preferable method for lighting a house during a power outage. They're very cheap, convenient, and easy to storage. For example, \$10 worth of candles can last you a month or two if you are using them on a daily basis. This is a low investment compared to other lighting methods.

Flashlights

When lights go out, the first thing we think of [getting is a flashlight](#). All flashlights are battery-powered. However, the bulb they use will vary from one make and model to another. They are handy for walking around the house during a power blackout. However, they are not great for lighting your house for long hours.

Solar Powered LED Lamps



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A good solar powered lamp can last up to 8 hours when fully charged. They are usually brighter than oil lamps and last longer without going out. One of the main advantages of solar-powered LED lamps is they do not require maintenance once you purchase them.

All you need to do is buy them and you will be set for at

least a year. On the downside, these lamps will set you back several hundred dollars depending on the size of your home. Additionally, they have to be installed using a professional service that may cost you more.

Kerosene Lamps

Apart from candles, Kerosene lamps are another traditional lighting method that was used by people in the past, before the advent of electricity. Kerosene lamps have one major problem, they tend to give off a pungent smell. Although they are one of the most affordable options, they have serious health implications.

The good news is such lamps are known to provide sufficient light for an average room of about ten by ten feet. If you live in a remote area like a cabin in the woods, a kerosene lamp may be one of the few options you have available during a power outage. You need to be careful when you use a kerosene lamp.

For starters, these lamps are not recommended in houses with small children. At the same time, they can be a fire risk. Accidentally knocking down a kerosene lamp can lead to a serious fire. At the same time, such lamps have a glass cover that usually gets hot. Children might get burnt if they touch it. Make sure you take all necessary precautions if you're using kerosene lamps.

Hand Lanterns

Hand lanterns are designed differently. There are those that are gas, battery, or kerosene operated.

Gas

Gas operated hand lanterns are quite effective. They use

little gas and can give enough light to light up an average room. Additionally, they do not consume a lot of gas.

Gas lanterns are known to run for long hours. The size of your gas lantern will determine how long it will run. For example, a 7-pound gas lantern can give you light continuously for several days or even a week. It will all depend on how much light you want. The brighter the light the faster the gas will run out.

Battery



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Factors that determine the amount of light a battery-operated hand lantern will give are two. First, the battery used in the lantern, and secondly the bulb will determine the amount of light it gives off. High powered batteries are likely to give

off bright light as long as they are paired with a high lumen rated LED bulb.

Kerosene

Kerosene hand lanterns are the last and have the lowest rating when it comes to hand lanterns. Kerosene hand lanterns are usually smaller in size when compared to kerosene lamps. This means they will not have the storage to hold a lot of kerosene. As a result, they tend to last for a few hours before a refill is required.

If you do not mind refilling this type of lantern, then it may be the best option. On the plus side, kerosene hand lanterns are usually very affordable. Normally they cost half or less the cost of a gas or battery-powered hand lantern. This is a great option if you are working on a budget and don't mind refilling it during long power outages.

Conclusion

All these are great ideas when it comes to lighting your house during a power outage. The one you choose should go together with your preferences. You should also consider your budget before you make a decision. Make sure you weigh the pros and cons of each option, lumen rating, and how bright or dark of a light you need.