



An Extended Guide · No. 1411

Backup Power for Medical Equipment

A gentle, clean layer of
protection — as part of a plan

Tech Made Simple — Service Made Personal

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! Read this first — this is a licensed electrician's job

A whole-home battery ties into your home's main electrical panel, and that makes the installation real electrical work — a job for a licensed electrician, done with a permit, and often with your utility's approval before it is switched on. It is not a do-it-yourself project. The happy news, and one of a battery's real advantages, is that once it is installed it runs silently and gives off no exhaust and no carbon monoxide, so unlike a generator it is safe indoors or in the garage. But the battery still stores a great deal of energy, so leave the wiring, the mounting, and any service to the pros, and follow the installer's and maker's instructions. I help you plan it and line up a trustworthy licensed electrician — I do not do the wiring myself. When someone at home relies on powered medical equipment, that clean, instant, silent switchover is a real comfort — but the panel tie-in is still a licensed electrician's job.

Let's build a gentle, dependable plan together

If someone in your home depends on powered medical equipment, an outage is more than an inconvenience. This guide explains, calmly and in plain English, how a home battery can help — and, just as important, why it should be one layer of a fuller plan, never the whole plan.

I'm Bill, and I run Bill's Home Tech here in Portage County, Ohio. I help families set up and test backup power so it's ready when it's needed. I'm a tech helper, not a doctor or nurse, so I'll always point medical questions to the people who should answer them — your doctor and your equipment supplier.

We'll go at an easy pace, and nothing here is meant to worry you. The goal is simple: a calm, written plan, a few layers of backup, and the confidence that comes from having tested it.

★ I'm glad to help you set this up

If you'd like a hand building and testing a backup plan for medical equipment, call or text me at (330) 200-8042. I'll help with the setup and the practice run — and I'll leave the medical side to your doctor.

The whole guide, on one page

If you remember only these things, you already have the shape of a sound plan.

- ❑ A home battery gives clean, instant, silent power — a lovely fit for sensitive medical equipment. But it's one layer, not the whole plan.
- ❑ Keep the manufacturer's own backups: built-in device batteries and any car or DC adapter that came with the equipment.
- ❑ If someone uses oxygen, keep backup oxygen tanks on hand — they need no power at all, which makes them the sturdiest backup of all.
- ❑ Register the household on your utility's medical or priority list, so you're flagged for extra care during outages.
- ❑ Tell your equipment supplier your backup plan, and ask your doctor what's right for your situation.
- ❑ If equipment fails and backup is running low — or if someone has trouble breathing, chest pain, confusion, or blue lips — call 911.

✓ The one-sentence version

A home battery is a clean, quiet layer of protection for medical equipment — best used alongside the device's own backups, oxygen tanks, your utility's medical list, and a plan you've tested.

Why a battery suits medical equipment so well

There's a genuine reason folks with medical equipment are drawn to batteries, and it's worth understanding.

A home battery delivers power that is clean, steady, and silent, and it takes over the instant the grid drops — so smoothly that a sensitive device often never notices the handoff. There's no engine to start, no fumes, and nothing to wheel outside, which makes it safe and comfortable indoors, right where the equipment lives.

Compare that to a generator, which is noisier, runs on fuel, and must sit well outside because of its exhaust. A battery's quiet, gap-free power is simply a gentler companion for equipment someone depends on, especially overnight.

✓ Clean and instant is the point

For equipment that shouldn't flicker or pause, a battery's seamless switchover is its real gift. Our what-it-is guide explains that instant, silent handoff in friendly detail.

One layer, not the whole plan

This is the most important idea in the guide, so let's say it plainly and kindly.

A home battery is wonderful, but no single thing should be the only thing standing between a loved one and a problem. A battery holds a finite charge, an installer could be delayed, wifi can hiccup, and any device can fail. So we don't lean the whole weight of someone's wellbeing on one layer.

Instead, we stack a few simple layers: the equipment's own backups, a home battery for clean power, no-power backups like oxygen tanks, your utility's medical list, and a written plan everyone knows. If one layer ever falls short, another is there.

! Please don't rely on a battery alone

A battery is a strong layer, not a guarantee. Keep the other layers in place too, and always keep a way to call for help. That's not fear — it's the same good sense as a smoke alarm and a fire extinguisher.

The layers of a good backup plan

Here's the whole team of backups, each doing a different job. You don't need every one, but you want more than one.

- **The device's own battery:** many machines run for a stretch on a built-in battery — your first line of defense.
- **A car or DC adapter:** some equipment can run from a vehicle's power in a pinch; keep the adapter that came with it.
- **A home battery:** clean, instant, silent power for the home, a strong middle layer once it's professionally installed.
- **No-power backups:** oxygen tanks and spare supplies that work with no electricity at all — the sturdiest layer.
- **Your utility's medical list:** registering flags your home for priority attention during outages.
- **A written plan:** who to call, what to do, and when to call 911 — kept where everyone can find it.

✓ Aim for a few layers, not perfection

You're not building a fortress. A couple of dependable backups plus a clear plan is far stronger than any single gadget, however good.

Keep the manufacturer's own backups

Before you think about a home battery at all, make sure you're using the backups the equipment already came with.

Many medical devices are designed with their own internal battery, meant to carry them through short interruptions or a move from room to room. Keep those charged and know how long they're meant to last. Your equipment supplier can tell you, and can often provide spare batteries.

Some devices also come with a car or DC adapter, so they can run from a vehicle if the house is dark. Keep that adapter with the equipment, not buried in a drawer, and make sure someone knows how to use it. These maker-approved backups are tested for your exact device — lean on them first.

✓ Ask your supplier the simple questions

How long does the built-in battery last? Are spares available? Is there a car adapter? Those three questions, asked once, make the whole plan steadier.

For oxygen users: keep backup tanks

If someone at home uses an oxygen concentrator, this page may be the most important one in the guide.

An oxygen concentrator makes oxygen from the air, and it needs electricity to run. Backup oxygen tanks, by contrast, hold their oxygen ready to go and need no power at all. That makes tanks the one backup that keeps working even if every powered layer fails at once — which is exactly why they matter so much.

Keep an adequate supply of backup tanks on hand, know how to switch to them, and ask your oxygen supplier how many they recommend for your situation and how to reorder. A battery may keep a concentrator humming, but tanks are the calm certainty underneath it.

! Tanks are the layer that needs no power

Please keep backup oxygen tanks even if you have a battery and a generator. They're the sturdiest link in the chain because nothing electrical can take them away. Your supplier and doctor can guide how much to keep.

Register with your utility's medical program

This is a simple, free step that many families don't know about, and it's worth doing today.

Most utilities keep a medical or priority list for households where someone depends on powered equipment. Getting on it can mean advance notice of planned outages, priority attention when crews are restoring power, and sometimes a courtesy call to check on you. It does not replace your own backups, but it adds a helpful layer of care.

A quick call to your electric company, or a look at their website, will tell you how to sign up. There's often a short form your doctor helps complete. It costs nothing and takes little time.

★ I can help you get registered

If finding the form or the phone number feels like a chore, that's an easy thing for me to help with on a visit. We'll get your household on the list and note the renewal date. Call (330) 200-8042.

Loop in your supplier and your doctor

The two people who know your equipment and your health best should know your backup plan too.

Tell your equipment supplier what backup power you have or are considering. They can tell you how your specific device behaves on battery power, what its own backup runtime is, and what they'd recommend. They may also have emergency support of their own that fits into your plan.

And ask your doctor. What's the right amount of backup for this person's needs? What are the warning signs to watch for, and when should you call for help? Those are medical questions, and they belong with your doctor — I'll never try to answer them myself.

✓ Put their numbers in the plan

Write your supplier's support line and your doctor's office right into your written plan, next to 911. When something's off, you won't want to go hunting for a number.

Two kinds of homes, two sets of needs

A backup plan for medical equipment looks a little different for a home close to town than for a rural home on a well and farther from help — and it's worth tailoring to yours.

If you live in town or the suburbs

In town or the suburbs, outages tend to be shorter, help is usually closer, and city water keeps flowing. That doesn't lower the stakes, but it does make a battery's clean, quiet power an easier fit.

- Shorter, common outages are just what a battery covers best — clean, instant power with no fuss.
- Being nearer to a hospital, a pharmacy, and quick help is a real comfort; keep those numbers in your plan anyway.
- City water means one less worry, so your backup can focus squarely on the medical equipment and comfort.
- Still keep the maker's backups, oxygen tanks, and your utility registration — the layers matter no matter where you live.

If you are out in the country on a well

Out in the country, outages can run longer and help may be farther away, so the plan needs a little more depth — more backup on hand, and the well to account for.

- Longer rural outages can outlast a battery's charge, so many homes pair one with a generator for endurance — our multi-day-outage guide covers stretching things.
- Keep a deeper supply of no-power backups like oxygen tanks, since a resupply run takes longer out here.
- A well pump stops when the power does, so store water — for drinking and for keeping equipment and hands clean.
- Make sure your utility knows your address is rural and medical; ask about their outage notice and priority process.

★ Not sure how deep your plan should go?

Tell me who relies on what, whether you're in town or on a well, and how long your outages run, and I'll help you build a plan that fits — and test it. Call (330) 200-8042.

When to stop and call 911

Backup power is about comfort and safety, but a machine is never more important than a person. This is the page to remember.

If powered equipment fails and its backup is running low, don't wait and hope — switch to a no-power backup like oxygen tanks if you have them, and get help lined up. And watch the person, not just the device.

Some signs mean you call for emergency help right away, before you worry about the equipment at all. Keep this plan calm but clear, and make sure everyone in the home knows it.

! Call 911 right away if you see these

If someone has trouble breathing, chest pain, sudden confusion, or a blue or gray tint to the lips or fingertips, call 911 immediately — don't wait on the equipment. This guide is general help, not medical advice; when in doubt, call 911 or your doctor.

The equipment folks most often ask about

A battery can help with many powered devices. Here's the honest shape of it, without pretending every device is the same.

- **Oxygen concentrator:** makes oxygen from the air and needs power; a battery can help, but keep no-power backup tanks.
- **CPAP or BiPAP:** a gentle nightly load a battery generally carries well; many have their own battery option too.
- **Ventilator:** critical and device-specific — follow the maker's and supplier's backup guidance closely.
- **Nebulizer:** used in short bursts, a light load a battery handles easily.
- **Powered wheelchair or scooter:** keep it charged; a home battery helps you recharge when the grid is down.
- **Medication refrigerator:** a modest load; a battery can keep medicines cold if you plan for it.

✓ Your supplier knows your device best

How long each device runs on backup depends on the specific model, so I won't guess numbers. Your equipment supplier can give you real figures for your own machines — ask, and write them down.

Why the instant handoff matters here

For most appliances a brief flicker is nothing. For some medical equipment, a smooth handoff is a genuine comfort.

When the grid drops, a home battery can carry the home over with essentially no gap — fast enough that a sensitive device generally rides straight through without resetting or pausing. That seamless quality is one of the nicest things about battery backup for equipment someone leans on.

Even so, don't assume every device sails through untouched. Ask your supplier whether yours needs to be restarted or reset after a switchover, and practice it once so it's familiar. Knowing beforehand beats finding out in the dark.

✓ Practice the switch once

A calm practice run — with your installer or with me — shows you exactly what each device does when power switches to the battery. No surprises is the whole idea.

Medicine that has to stay cold

Some medications must stay refrigerated, and an outage puts that at risk. A little planning keeps them safe.

A medication refrigerator is a modest load a home battery can often keep running. Even without one, a fridge holds its cold for a while if you keep the door closed — so open it as little as possible during an outage. For anything you're unsure about, your pharmacist can tell you how a given medicine handles a warm spell and when it shouldn't be used.

If a medicine is truly critical, treat it like oxygen: have a plan that doesn't depend on power alone, such as a cooler and ice packs ready to go, and know where you could keep it cold if an outage stretches on.

✓ Ask the pharmacist, keep a cooler ready

A simple cooler with fresh ice packs is a cheap no-power backup for cold medicine. Ask your pharmacist what your specific medications need, and note it in your plan.

Put it in writing, and keep it handy

The best plan is the one you don't have to remember. Write it down and keep it where anyone can find it.

A single page does the trick. List each piece of equipment and how it's backed up, the order to switch things on, and the phone numbers that matter — your equipment supplier, your doctor's office, your utility, a trusted neighbor or family member, and 911. Tape it inside a cabinet door or beside the equipment.

Make sure more than one person knows the plan, including anyone who might be helping. In a stressful moment, a clear written page is worth more than the finest gear, because it works even when nerves don't.

★ I'll help you write it up

On a visit I can help you put this plan on one clear page, in big friendly type, and post it where it belongs. It's exactly the sort of practical thing I love to help with. Call (330) 200-8042.

Test it before you ever need it

A plan you've practiced is a plan you can trust. Testing turns a good idea into real peace of mind.

With your installer, or with me, do a gentle dry run. Simulate a power loss and watch what each device does. Confirm the battery takes over as expected, time how the switch feels, and make sure everyone knows where the oxygen tanks and adapters are and how to use them.

Then set a reminder to glance at the plan every so often — to recharge device batteries, rotate supplies, refresh cooler ice packs, and renew your utility registration. A plan is a living thing, not a one-time chore.

✓ A calm rehearsal beats a real surprise

Practicing when the sun is shining and nobody's stressed is how you find the little gaps — a dead spare battery, an adapter no one can locate — while they're easy to fix.

What I can help with — and what I can't

I want to be crystal clear about my role, because trust matters most with something this important.

I can help you choose and understand backup power, set up the app and alerts, build your written plan, and run a calm practice test. I can help you get on your utility's medical list and line up a licensed electrician for the install. That's the tech-and-planning side, and I'm glad to do it.

What I can't do is give medical advice or decide what backup your health needs. I'm not a doctor or a nurse, and I'd never pretend to be. Those questions belong with your doctor and your equipment supplier, and I'll always send you their way.

★ Your tech helper and coordinator

Think of me as the person who makes the technology and the plan simple, and who helps line up the licensed pros — while your medical team makes the medical calls. Call (330) 200-8042 anytime.

A few gentle reminders

Some very common assumptions are worth softening, kindly, so your plan stays sound.

- **'The battery has it covered.'** It's one strong layer. Keep the device's own backups, oxygen tanks, and a way to call for help.
- **'I'll remember what to do.'** Under stress, memory slips. A written page by the equipment is far more reliable.
- **'Registering with the utility isn't worth it.'** It's free and adds real care during outages — an easy yes.
- **'A generator would be simpler.'** A generator is a fine partner, but it's noisy and runs outside; many families use a battery for clean indoor power and a generator for the long haul.

✓ Layers, written down, and tested

If you take three things from this guide, take those. They turn good intentions into a plan that actually holds up when it counts.

Sizing is for the pros — on both sides

As with all our guides, the specifics belong to the professionals. Here that means two teams, not one.

How big a battery you'd want depends on which devices must run and for how long — a load calculation for a licensed installer, guided by real runtime figures from your equipment supplier. I won't quote a size or a price, because a guess here would be worse than useless. Our sizing guide covers capacity versus runtime honestly, without numbers I can't stand behind.

And how much backup a person truly needs is a medical judgment for your doctor. Bring both teams the same clear list of equipment, and let each do the part that's theirs.

✓ Two questions, two experts

How much battery? Ask a licensed installer, armed with your supplier's runtime figures.
How much backup is enough for this person? Ask the doctor. Keep those lanes clear.

Common Questions

The questions I hear most from families planning backup for medical equipment, answered plainly.

Q: Can a home battery keep my oxygen concentrator running?

It can help — a battery's clean, silent power suits a concentrator well. But always keep backup oxygen tanks too, since they need no power and are the sturdiest layer if anything electrical fails.

Q: Is a battery enough on its own?

Treat it as one layer, not the whole plan. Keep the device's own backups, no-power backups like tanks, your utility's medical registration, and a written plan with numbers to call.

Q: How long will my device run on a battery?

That depends on the specific device, so I won't guess. Your equipment supplier can give real runtime figures for your machines, and a licensed installer can size a battery around them.

Q: Should I tell my utility about the equipment?

Yes. Registering on your utility's medical or priority list is free and can bring advance notice of outages and priority restoration. Your doctor often helps with the short form.

Q: When should I stop and call 911?

If backup is running low with no power coming, or if someone has trouble breathing, chest pain, confusion, or blue lips, call 911 right away. The person always comes before the equipment.

★ Still have questions? That's what I'm here for

Building a calm, tested plan is exactly what I love to help with. Call or text me at (330) 200-8042 — and remember, the medical questions go to your doctor, and I'm glad to help with everything around them.

Putting it all together

Here's the whole plan on one calm page. None of it is hard; it just wants doing once, and checking now and then.

- ❑ Use the device's own backups first — keep built-in batteries charged and any car adapter handy.
- ❑ Add a home battery for clean, instant, silent power, professionally installed.
- ❑ Keep no-power backups: oxygen tanks and spare supplies that need no electricity.
- ❑ Register on your utility's medical or priority list, and note the renewal date.
- ❑ Tell your supplier your plan, ask your doctor what's right, and write every key number down — including 911.
- ❑ Test the plan calmly before you need it, then glance at it now and again to keep it fresh.

★ Let's make it real, together

Tell me who relies on what, and I'll help you set up the backups, write the plan, get you registered, and run a gentle test — with your medical team guiding the health decisions. Call (330) 200-8042.

You don't have to do this alone

You just have to remember that a friendly, patient person is one call away.

I hope this guide made backup power for medical equipment feel a little less daunting and a lot more doable. Keep it in a drawer with your other home papers, come back to a page whenever you need it, and don't worry about memorizing anything.

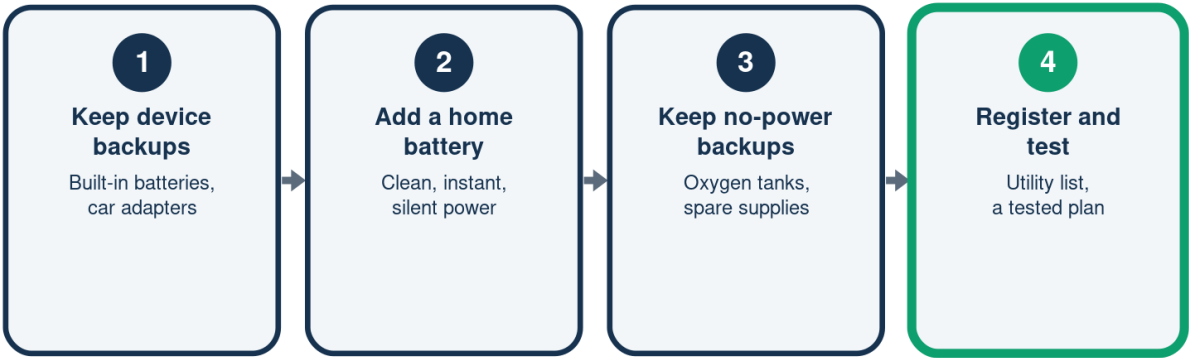
When you'd rather have a hand, that's exactly what I do. I come to your home, work at your pace, and never make you feel rushed or silly for asking. A first visit is a flat \$99, and for the parts that don't need me on-site I can often help right on your screen for \$49. Every visit comes with a 30-day, come-back-free guarantee. I don't do the licensed electrical work myself — for that I'll help you line up a trustworthy local pro.

★ Bill's Home Tech — real help, close to home

Call or text me at (330) 200-8042, or visit BillsHomeTech.com. Serving Atwater and all of Portage County. 30+ years of patient, plain-English tech help — and if you're ever not 100% happy with a visit, I'll make it right or refund it. That's a promise. — Bill

Your Backup Plan, Layer by Layer

A battery is one layer of a fuller plan



No single layer should carry all the weight.

A Home Battery vs a Generator

For powering medical equipment

	Home battery	Generator
Noise	Silent	An engine
Fumes	None indoors	Exhaust, outside
Switchover	Instant	A short gap
Long outage	Finite charge	Runs on fuel

Many plans use both, plus the device's own backups.

Powered vs No-Power Backups

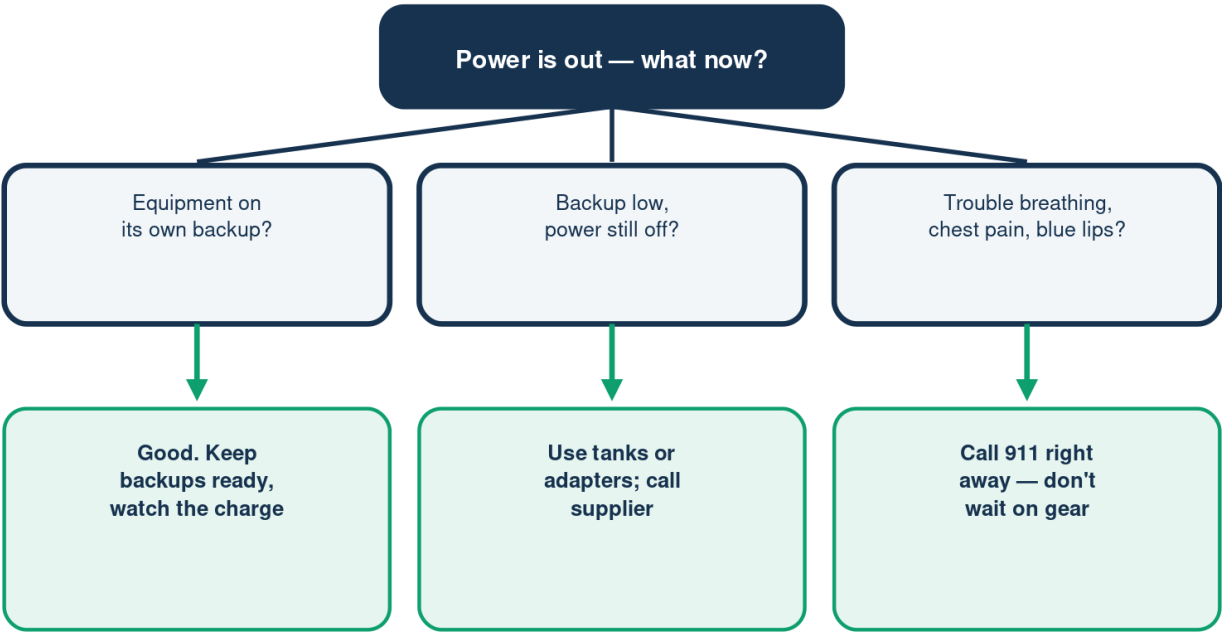
Keep both kinds — they cover different failures

	Powered layers	No-power layers
What they are	Battery, adapters	Tanks, supplies
Need charging	Yes	No
Good for	Clean power	A total outage
Keep them?	Yes	Yes

No-power backups are the sturdiest link in the chain.

If the Power Goes Out

A calm path to follow



General help, not medical advice — when in doubt, call 911 or your doctor.

Illustration - a schematic, not to scale. Your setup may differ.



Need a Real Person?

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— Bill

Prefer help without a visit?

Bill can screen-share and fix many things remotely — a flat \$49, free for Support Plan members.



A Note From Bill

A quick note from Bill.

I write these guides to make home tech a little less frustrating, and I do my best to keep every step accurate and up to date. Still, every home, device, and setup is a bit different, so I can't promise a guide will match yours exactly or fix your particular problem. These guides are for general information only — they're not professional, legal, or financial advice, and they don't replace your device's own manual or the manufacturer's instructions. Please go slow, use your own good judgment, and use everything here at your own risk. If a step involves electrical wiring, a gas appliance, a water heater, plumbing, or climbing a ladder — or if anything just doesn't feel safe — please stop and call a licensed professional (or give me a call at 330-200-8042). Bill's Home Tech and Bill Davis can't be responsible for any damage, data loss, or injury that comes from using these guides. Thanks for reading, and stay safe out there.

— *Bill*



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