



Portable Power Stations for Camping — Sizing a Week Off-Grid

Sizing a Power Station Run a fridge, a CPAP, your phones for a week away from a plug An Extended Guide · No. 2052

————— An Extended Guide · No. 2052 —————

Tech Made Simple. Service Made Personal.

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THE 60-SECOND VERSION

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1. The Whole Idea in One Glance If you remember only this page, you will still make a smart choice. A portable power station is a sealed battery with ordinary household outlets and USB ports built right in. You charge it at home, carry it to camp, and plug your things into it like a wall. There is no gas, no engine, and no fumes, so you can run it beside you while you sleep. The size that matters is watt-hours — how much energy it holds Match that number to what you run: a fridge, a CPAP, some phones Lithium units made today last for years and are safe to use You can refill it from a wall, your car, or solar panels A week off-grid for a fridge and a CPAP usually wants a large unit plus solar You do not need the biggest one on the shelf. The right size is the one that covers your real daily use with a little room to spare, and no more. WHAT IT IS 2. What a Power Station Really Is Think of it as a very large version of the battery pack you charge your phone with, except it has real wall outlets on the front. Inside is a rechargeable battery and a little electronics brain that turns the battery's power into the kind your appliances expect. You charge it full, then draw from it until it runs low. Because everything is sealed in one case, there is nothing to assemble and nothing to spill. You lift it by a handle, set it down, and plug in. That simplicity is a big part of why campers love them. WATCH OUT A power station is not the same as a loud gas generator. It is silent, makes no exhaust, and is safe to use inside a tent or camper — which a gas generator never is.

WHY CAMPERS LIKE IT

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3. Why People Bring One Camping Out past the last power pedestal, a little electricity makes a big difference. A power station keeps the medical gear running, the food cold, and the phones charged so you can call home. It does all of that quietly, which matters at a peaceful campsite where a droning generator would ruin the evening. Run a CPAP through the night without a single plug nearby Keep a small fridge or cooler cold for the whole trip Charge phones, tablets, cameras, and a laptop Power a fan, a few lights, or a coffee maker in the morning None of this means you must own one. If you only camp where there are hookups, you may never need it. The question is how far off the grid you like to go. BE HONEST 4. Do You Actually Need One? The most money-saving page in this guide. This is the page I would want a friend to read before spending anything. A good power station is a real purchase, often several hundred dollars and sometimes more. If you always camp with electric hookups, a long extension cord may be all you ever need. You camp with electric hookups: you may not need one at all You tent camp or boondock off-grid: a power station earns its keep You rely on a CPAP or other medical device: it buys real peace of mind You want backup power at home too: that is a fair bonus reason WATCH OUT Do not buy a huge unit for a trip you take with full hookups. Be honest about how often you are truly off the grid before you size up. WATT-HOURS 5. The One Number That Matters Most If you learn one word from this guide, make it watt-hours. A watt-hour, written Wh, is simply how much energy the battery can store. A bigger watt-hour number means it runs your gear longer before it needs a refill. It is the gas-tank size of the power station world.

WATTS

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Watt-hours (Wh) tell you how much energy is in the tank More watt-hours means longer runtime before recharging Small units start around a few hundred watt-hours Big camping units reach 1,000 watt-hours and well beyond When two units cost about the same, the one with more watt-hours holds more energy. That number, not the brand name, tells you how long it will last. 6. Watt-Hours vs Watts, the Two Numbers There are two numbers on every power station, and folks mix them up all the time. Watt-hours are how much energy it holds. Watts are how much it can push out at once. A unit needs enough watts to turn an appliance on, and enough watt-hours to keep it running for a while. Watts (W) = how powerful a device it can run at one instant Watt-hours (Wh) = how long it can keep running something A hair dryer needs high watts; a phone needs almost none Check both numbers against what you plan to plug in TIP Picture a water hose. Watts are how wide the hose is; watt-hours are how big the tank behind it is. You need a wide enough hose and a big enough tank. SIZING 7. Adding Up What You Run Sizing a power station sounds like math, but it is really just a short list. You write down what you want to run, roughly how much each one uses in a day, and add it up. That total, in watt-hours, is what your battery has to cover before it recharges.

- 1 List every device you want to run off-grid
- 2 Find each one's watts on its label or in its manual
- 3 Estimate how many hours a day each one runs
- 4 Multiply watts by hours to get watt-hours for each
- 5 Add them up for your daily total, then add a little cushion

CPAP

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Always leave headroom. Cold weather, an extra guest, or a cloudy day all eat into your plan, so size a bit above your bare-minimum total. 8. Running a CPAP Overnight For a lot of campers, keeping a CPAP running is the whole reason they buy a power station. The good news is a CPAP is gentle on power. On its own it draws only a modest amount, and a night often lands somewhere around 150 to 400 watt-hours. Always check your own machine's label to be sure. A CPAP alone usually sips 30 to 90 watts while running A full night often uses roughly 150 to 400 watt-hours The heated humidifier and heated tube use far more — turn them off A unit of 500 watt-hours or more usually covers a night or two **WATCH OUT** The heated humidifier and heated hose are the power hogs on a CPAP. Switching them off for camping can cut your overnight draw dramatically, so confirm how to disable them before your trip. **FRIDGE** 9. Running a 12-Volt Fridge A small 12-volt compressor fridge is the other big draw at most campsites. It does not run constantly — it cycles on and off to hold its temperature — so it uses less than you might fear. Over a full day it typically lands somewhere around 200 to 600 watt-hours, depending on its size and how hot the day is. A 12-volt fridge cycles on and off, so it sips, not guzzles A full day often runs roughly 200 to 600 watt-hours Hot weather and a full fridge both push the number higher Keep it in the shade and it works less to stay cold **TIP** Shade and a packed fridge both help. A full fridge holds its cold longer than an empty one, so it kicks on less often and saves you power.

PHONES

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10. Phones, Tablets and Little Things After the fridge and the CPAP, most of your other gear barely registers. Charging phones, tablets, a camera, and a pair of headlamps uses a tiny slice of a big battery. You can top these off all week and hardly notice the dent in your watt-hours. A phone charge is a very small fraction of a big unit. Tablets and cameras are small too, even over a week. A laptop uses more, but still far less than a fridge. Use the USB ports for small things to leave the outlets free. Charging your small devices straight from the USB ports is a little more efficient than using a wall-plug charger in the outlet. For phones and tablets, reach for the USB ports first.

A WEEK OFF-GRID 11. Sizing for a Whole Week Here is where the numbers come together. If you want to run a fridge, a CPAP, and your devices for a week with no plug anywhere, a single battery charge will not stretch that far on its own. You need either a very large battery, or a way to refill it each day — which almost always means solar. A fridge plus a CPAP plus devices can want hundreds of watt-hours a day. A week of that adds up past what one charge holds. A large station of 1,000 watt-hours or more is the starting point. Pair it with solar panels so each sunny day tops it back up. **WATCH OUT** Without a way to recharge, even a big battery runs dry in a few days of real use. For a true week off-grid, plan on solar or another charging source, not just a bigger box.

THE BATTERY INSIDE

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12. Lithium vs the Older Kind Most camping power stations made today use a lithium battery called LiFePO₄, often shortened to LFP. It is worth knowing the name because it is a genuinely better battery: it lasts for many more charges, handles being drained more deeply, and is very safe. Older or bargain units may use a different lithium type that wears out sooner. LiFePO₄ (LFP) batteries last for thousands of charge cycles. They are safe and stable, good for running near where you sleep. They can be used down to nearly empty without harm. Cheaper, older chemistries wear out faster — check before you buy. If a listing proudly says LiFePO₄ or LFP, that is a good sign for a camping unit. It usually means a longer life and a safer battery, well worth a little extra.

BRANDS 13. The Main Brands, Evenly A handful of brands make most of the power stations campers buy, and they are all capable. EcoFlow, Jackery, Bluetti, and Anker each offer a range from small to very large. I will not crown one as best, because the right pick depends on your size needs, your budget, and which features you value. EcoFlow — the River and Delta lines, small up to very large. Jackery — the Explorer line, a long-time camping favorite. Bluetti — a wide range with big-capacity options. Anker — known for sturdy build and long warranties. TIP Pick the size and features first, then compare the brands that offer them. Any of the well-known names will serve you well if the watt-hours and outputs match your needs.

OUTPUTS

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14. The Plugs and Ports on the Front The front of a power station is a little panel of outlets. Knowing what each one is for helps you plug in without guessing. Most units give you regular household outlets, several USB ports, and a 12-volt socket like the one in your car. Household outlets — for anything with a normal wall plug USB-A and USB-C ports — for phones, tablets, and small gear A 12-volt car socket — for camping fans, pumps, and coolers Some have fast USB-C that can even charge a laptop quickly Count the outlets you actually need before buying. A fridge, a CPAP, and a couple of chargers running at once means you want enough ports so you are not swapping plugs all night. INVERTER 15. The Inverter and Why It Matters The part that turns the battery's power into the household kind your outlets deliver is called the inverter. Its rating, in watts, sets the biggest thing you can run. If an appliance needs more watts than the inverter can give, the unit simply will not run it, even if the battery is full. The inverter sets the maximum watts you can draw at once A small unit may not start a microwave or a big coffee maker Add up the watts of things running together, not just one Many units briefly allow a higher surge to start motors WATCH OUT A full battery does not help if the inverter is too small for the appliance. Check the watts of your heaviest device against the unit's output before you count on it.

RECHARGING

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16. Three Ways to Fill It Back Up A power station is only as useful as your ability to refill it. There are three common ways, and most units can do all three. You charge it fast at home before you leave, top it up from your vehicle on the drive, and keep it going with solar once you are parked off-grid. From a wall outlet — fastest, do this before you leave From your vehicle — a slow trickle while you drive From solar panels — the key to staying out for days Many units can take two sources at once for a faster fill TIP Always leave home with the station fully charged. It is the single easiest thing you can do, and it costs you nothing but a few hours on a wall outlet the night before. WALL CHARGING 17. Charging From a Wall Outlet The fastest way to fill a power station is a regular wall outlet at home. Many newer units charge surprisingly quickly, going from near empty to full in a couple of hours. This is how you should always start a trip — topped right off.

- 1 Plug the station's wall charger into a household outlet
- 2 Connect the other end to the station's charging port
- 3 Watch the display climb toward 100 percent
- 4 Unplug once it is full and you are ready to pack Some units let you choose a slower charge speed in their app. A gentler charge is a touch kinder to the battery over the years if you are not in a hurry. **CAR CHARGING 18. Charging From Your Vehicle** You can also refill the station from your vehicle while you drive, using the 12-volt socket or a direct connection. It is slow — think of it as a trickle, not a fill-up — but a few hours of driving between campsites adds a helpful chunk back in. Use the car-charging cable that came with the unit

WATCH OUT

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It charges slowly, so expect a partial top-up, not a full one Only runs while the engine is on, to spare your car battery A day of driving can meaningfully recharge a mid-size unit Do not leave the station charging from a parked car with the engine off. It can drain your vehicle's starting battery and leave you unable to start the car. **SOLAR CHARGING 19. Topping Up With Solar** Solar is what turns a few days of power into an open-ended stay. You connect a folding solar panel to the station, set it in the sun, and it pours energy back into the battery through the day. On a bright day, panels can replace much of what you used overnight. A folding solar panel plugs straight into most stations A sunny day can replace a good share of your overnight use Point the panel at the sun and move it as the day goes on Clouds and shade cut the output, so size with a margin My RV solar guide goes deeper on panels and sizing. The short version: a station plus a couple of good panels is what lets you camp off-grid as long as the weather cooperates. **EXPANSION 20. Add-On Batteries for More Capacity** Many of the larger stations accept add-on battery packs that plug in to roughly double or triple your watt-hours. This is handy if you are not sure how big to go — you can start with the main unit and add a pack later if you find yourself running short. Expansion batteries bolt on more watt-hours later A good way to grow if your needs get bigger over time Only certain models accept them — check before you count on it Buying expandable keeps your options open down the road **TIP** If you are torn between two sizes, an expandable model splits the difference. Buy the base now and add a battery only if a real trip proves you need it.

WHAT NOT TO RUN**13. For electrical, gas, water, or ladder work, please call a licensed professional. — Bill's Home Tech**

21. The Appliances That Eat Power Some appliances will drain any camping power station in a hurry, and it helps to know them going in. Anything that makes heat — a hair dryer, an electric kettle, a space heater, a coffee maker, a toaster — pulls enormous watts. You can run them briefly, but they are not what a battery is best at. Hair dryers, heaters, and kettles pull huge watts. A microwave or coffee maker drains a battery fast. Air conditioners are usually beyond a portable unit. Save the battery for low-draw gear that runs for hours.

WATCH OUT One hot shower's worth of a hair dryer can use as much as your fridge does all day. Reserve the big battery for the fridge, the CPAP, and your devices, not for heating things.

HEAT APPLIANCES

22. Why Heaters and Kettles Drain It Fast It is worth understanding why heat is so costly, because it changes how you camp. Making heat from electricity simply takes a tremendous number of watts. That is why a tiny travel kettle can pull more power in five minutes than your phone uses in a week. For camping, it is far wiser to make heat with propane or gas — a camp stove, a propane heater, a gas kettle — and save your precious battery for the electronics that have no other way to run. The rule of thumb: let gas and propane handle heat, and let the battery handle electronics. That one habit stretches a power station further than anything else you can do.

PURE SINE**14. For electrical, gas, water, or ladder work, please call a licensed professional. — Bill's Home Tech**

23. Pure Sine Wave and Sensitive Gear You may see the phrase pure sine wave on a power station. It describes the quality of the electricity the inverter makes. A pure sine wave is clean, smooth power like your home outlets deliver, and it is what sensitive gear like a CPAP or a laptop wants. Nearly all the name-brand units give you this. Pure sine wave means clean power, just like a home outlet. It is what a CPAP, laptop, or medical device prefers. The major brands all provide pure sine wave output. Very cheap off-brand units sometimes do not — check the listing TIP. If you run a CPAP or any medical device, confirm the unit says pure sine wave before you buy. It protects the gear and keeps it running smoothly. SAFETY 24. Using It Safely Indoors One of the best things about a power station is that it is safe to use inside a tent or camper, which a gas generator never is. There is no exhaust and no flame. Still, a few common-sense habits keep it happy: give it air, keep it dry, and do not cover it while it works. Safe indoors — no fumes, unlike a gas generator. Keep it in a spot with some airflow so it can cool. Keep it dry; most units are not made to sit in the rain. Do not drape a blanket over it or box it in while running. The reason you can sleep beside a power station and never beside a running gas generator is simple: a generator makes carbon monoxide, and a battery does not. That alone is a big reason campers switch.

VS GENERATOR

15. For electrical, gas, water, or ladder work, please call a licensed professional. — Bill's Home Tech*25. Power Station or Gas Generator?*

A gas generator and a power station both give you power off-grid, but they feel very different to live with. A generator makes power as long as you feed it fuel, which is great for very heavy loads. A power station is silent and clean but holds only what its battery stores. Many campers end up preferring the quiet. Generator: endless power with fuel, but loud and smelly Power station: silent and clean, but limited to its battery A generator can run a big air conditioner; most stations cannot For quiet camping with modest needs, the station usually wins TIP If your needs are a fridge, a CPAP, and devices, a power station with solar is the gentler choice. Save the gas generator for heavy loads like running an air conditioner for hours. QUIET 26. The Quiet, No-Fumes Advantage It is hard to overstate how nice silence is at a campsite. A power station makes almost no noise beyond a soft fan now and then. No one in the next site glares at you, no engine drones through dinner, and you can leave it running overnight without a thought. Nearly silent — a soft fan at most No exhaust, so it is safe near where you sleep No fuel to haul, store, or smell Welcome in quiet campgrounds that ban noisy generators Many campgrounds have quiet hours or ban generators outright. A power station sidesteps all of that, since there is nothing to hear and nothing to object to.

TEMPERATURE**16. For electrical, gas, water, or ladder work, please call a licensed professional. — Bill's Home Tech**

27. Heat, Cold and Your Battery Batteries have feelings about temperature. Extreme heat and hard cold both reduce how much a battery can deliver and can shorten its life. On a scorching afternoon or a freezing night, keep the station somewhere closer to comfortable, not baking in the sun or buried in snow. Keep it out of direct afternoon sun and away from heaters. In cold, bring it inside the tent or camper if you can. A cold battery delivers less and may charge slowly. Let a very cold unit warm up before expecting full output. **WATCH OUT** Do not charge a lithium battery when it is below freezing — it can damage the cells. If the unit has been out in the cold, let it warm up before plugging in a charger. **CHARGING HABITS** 28. Keeping the Battery Healthy A few easy habits keep a lithium power station healthy for many years. You do not have to baby it, but you can avoid the couple of things that wear a battery out faster: letting it sit bone-dry for months, or constantly keeping it pinned at a hard full in blazing heat. Keep it roughly half to mostly charged when stored a long time. Top it up every few months while it is in storage. Avoid leaving it fully drained for weeks on end. A gentler charge speed is kinder than always charging flat out. LiFePO4 batteries are tough and forgiving. Normal camping use barely touches their long life — these habits just help the unit outlive even its generous warranty.

STORAGE**17. For electrical, gas, water, or ladder work, please call a licensed professional. — Bill's Home Tech**

29. Storing It Between Trips Between trips, store the station clean, dry, and somewhere that does not swing between extremes of hot and cold. Leave it partly charged rather than full or empty. A closet or a shelf indoors is perfect; a sealed hot garage in August or a freezing shed in January is not ideal. Store it indoors, dry, and away from temperature extremes. Leave it around half to mostly charged, not dead or stuffed full. Coil the cables loosely and keep them with the unit. Give it a top-up every couple of months so it never drains flat. **TIP** Set a reminder on your phone to top it up every few months. A power station left forgotten and fully drained all winter can be hard to wake up in the spring. **WINTER 30.** Over the Ohio Winter An Ohio winter is hard on any battery left out in an unheated space. When camping season ends, the simplest plan is to bring the station indoors where it stays above freezing, leave it partly charged, and give it an occasional top-up. It will be ready when the weather turns warm again. Bring it inside where it stays above freezing. Store it partly charged, not full and not empty. Top it up once or twice through the cold months. Do not try to charge it when it is below freezing. My winterizing guide covers the whole rig — batteries, cameras, and electronics. A power station is one of the easiest pieces: bring it in, keep it part-charged, and forget about it until spring.

READING THE SCREEN

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31. The Display and the App Every modern power station has a screen that tells you what you need to know at a glance: how full the battery is, how many watts you are drawing, and roughly how long it will last. Many also pair with a free phone app so you can check it from your chair. The screen shows how full the battery is, as a percentage. It also shows watts going out and sometimes time remaining. A phone app lets you watch and adjust settings from afar. The app can often set charge speed and turn ports on or off. TIP Glance at the watts-out number when you plug something in. It is a quick, honest way to learn which of your appliances are the real power hogs at your site. CALCULATING RUNTIME 32. Guessing How Long It Lasts You can estimate runtime with simple arithmetic. Take the station's watt-hours and divide by the watts your device draws, and that is roughly how many hours it will run. A 1,000 watt-hour unit running a 100-watt load lasts around ten hours, give or take a little for losses.

- 1 Note the station's watt-hours from its label
- 2 Note the device's watts from its label
- 3 Divide watt-hours by watts for rough hours of runtime
- 4 Trim the answer a bit, since no battery is perfectly efficient. Real-world runtime is always a little less than the math, because some energy is lost turning battery power into outlet power. Plan for about ten to fifteen percent less than the tidy number.

ONE OR TWO

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33. One Big Unit or Two Small Some campers wonder whether to buy one large station or two smaller ones. Each has its charm. One big unit is simpler and often cheaper per watt-hour. Two smaller ones let you leave one charging in the car while the other works at camp, or lend one to a friend. One big unit: simpler, usually cheaper for the capacity Two small units: flexible, split between camp, car, and boat Two means you can charge one while using the other For most campers, one right-sized unit is the easy answer TIP Unless you have a clear reason to split them up, one correctly sized unit is simpler to live with. Fewer cables, one screen to read, one thing to charge. BOAT USE 34. On the Boat and at the Dock A power station is handy on a pontoon or at a lake dock too, running a cooler, a stereo, or charging phones and trolling-motor accessories. Water is the one caution: keep it dry, up off a wet deck, and out of the spray. These units are not built to get soaked. Great for a cooler, a stereo, or charging on the water Keep it up off a wet deck and under cover from spray Secure it so it cannot slide or tip when the boat moves A water-resistant cover or bin adds cheap peace of mind WATCH OUT Most power stations are not waterproof. On a boat, treat it like a laptop — keep it dry, shaded, and strapped down so a wake does not send it sliding. EMERGENCY 35. A Bonus: Power When the House Goes Dark Here is a happy bonus. The same power station you camp with doubles as backup power at home when a storm knocks out the lights. It can keep a few lamps, a phone, a modem, or a medical device going through an outage, quietly and with no fumes in the house. Keeps lights, phones, and a modem alive in an outage

BUYING

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Runs a CPAP or other medical device if the power fails No fumes, so it is safe to use indoors during a storm A quiet comfort that earns its keep even when you are home Many folks buy a power station for camping and come to value it just as much for home backup. One purchase, two very different jobs — and both of them welcome. 36. Buying Without Overbuying Buy the size that matches your real daily use with a little room to spare, not the biggest box in the store. Add up your watt-hours, check that the inverter watts cover your heaviest appliance, and make sure it has the ports you need. Prices move around, so confirm the current price before you commit. Size to your daily watt-hours plus a modest cushion Check the inverter watts cover your biggest appliance Count the outlets and USB ports you will actually use Confirm the current price and watch for seasonal deals TIP If you camp off-grid for more than a day or two, budget for a solar panel in the same purchase. The battery and the panel are a team, and buying them together saves a second shopping trip. USED GEAR 37. Used Power Stations, the Catch A used power station can be a real bargain, but a battery is a wearing part, so you are buying something with miles on it. The key questions are how old it is, how many times it has been charged, and whether any warranty transfers. A worn battery holds less than its label claims. A battery wears with use, so ask its age and charge count Check whether any remaining warranty carries over to you A worn unit may hold less than its stated watt-hours When in doubt, a new LiFePO4 unit buys years of worry-free use

WATCH OUT**21. For electrical, gas, water, or ladder work, please call a licensed professional. — Bill's Home Tech**

If a used unit is priced too good to be true, it may have a tired battery. Ask to see it hold a charge and deliver power before any money changes hands.

ACCESSORIES 38. Cables, Cases and Extras A few modest extras make a power station easier to live with. A padded bag protects it in transit, the right solar cable lets you charge in the sun, and a spare 12-volt cable or two keeps your coolers and fans fed. Buy only what a real trip shows you need. A padded bag or case protects it on bumpy roads. The matching solar cable lets you charge from panels. Spare USB and 12-volt cables keep everything fed. A small surge strip multiplies one outlet into several.

WATCH OUT Do not load up on accessories before your first trip. Live with the basic kit for a weekend, then buy only the extras a real trip proves you are missing.

PAIRING SOLAR 39. Pairing With a Solar Setup A power station and solar panels are the classic off-grid pair. By day, the panels refill the battery; by night, the battery runs your gear. Sized together with a little margin, they let you stay out as long as the sun keeps showing up. This is the setup most happy boondockers settle on. Panels refill by day; the battery runs your gear by night. Size the pair with a margin for cloudy days. A couple of good folding panels suit most campers. Together they turn a two-day battery into an open-ended stay. My RV solar and Starlink guides both lean on this same pairing. Get the station and panels right, and adding other gear later is just a matter of leaving a little headroom.

COMMON WORRIES

22. For electrical, gas, water, or ladder work, please call a licensed professional. — Bill's Home Tech

40. The Questions People Ask Me Most When folks come to me about power stations, the same handful of worries come up. Here are the honest answers to the ones I hear most, so you can decide with clear eyes and no sales pressure. 'Is it safe to use in the tent?' Yes — no fumes, unlike a generator 'Will it run my coffee maker?' Briefly, but it drains fast; use gas for heat 'How long will it last me?' Depends on watt-hours and what you run 'Can it power my whole RV?' Not the air conditioner, but the rest, yes There is no shame in starting small. A mid-size unit covers most weekend campers beautifully, and you can always add a battery or a second unit if your trips grow. TROUBLESHOOTING 41. When It Won't Turn On or Charge If a power station seems dead or will not charge, the fix is usually simple. Most trouble comes down to a port that was left off, a cable that is not seated, a battery that is fully drained, or a unit that is too cold. Work through the basics before you worry.

- 1 Press and hold the main power button to wake the unit
- 2 Make sure the outlet or USB section is switched on
- 3 Reseat the charging cable firmly at both ends
- 4 If it is very cold, warm it up before charging
- 5 Try a different wall outlet and charger if nothing happens TIP A unit that drained completely in storage can seem dead but often revives after a patient hour or two on the wall charger. Give it time before you give up on it. YOUR CHECKLIST 42. Your Power Station Checklist Here is the short version to keep by the door of the rig. If you can check these off, you are in good shape to keep the lights on anywhere you roam. Added up my daily watt-hours with a little cushion

WHEN TO CALL**23. For electrical, gas, water, or ladder work, please call a licensed professional. — Bill's Home Tech**

Confirmed the inverter watts cover my biggest appliance Chose a LiFePO4 unit with the ports I need Left home with the battery fully charged Have solar panels if I am out more than a day or two Keep heat-making appliances on gas, not the battery Store it indoors, partly charged, above freezing Tape this list inside a cabinet door. A thirty-second glance before each trip keeps you from arriving with a battery you forgot to charge. 43. When It Is Worth Calling Me Most people can pick out and use a power station on their own, and I hope this guide makes that easier. But if you are not sure what size you need, if you want help pairing one with solar panels, or if you rely on a CPAP and want to be certain it will run all night, that is exactly what I am here for. I will give you the honest answer, even when the honest answer is that a smaller, cheaper unit will do everything you need. WATCH OUT I can sit down with you, add up your real power needs, and set up a station and solar so you leave on your trip confident the fridge stays cold and the CPAP never quits. My first in-home visit is a flat \$99, and remote help by screen-share is \$49. Call or text me at (330) 200-8042. CHEAT SHEET Everyday Cheat Sheet Keep this page handy. It is the short answer to the questions campers ask most about power stations. Watt-hours (Wh) are the tank size; match them to what you run A CPAP alone often uses 150 to 400 Wh a night — turn off the heated humidifier A 12-volt fridge often uses 200 to 600 Wh a day — keep it shaded and full A week off-grid wants a 1,000 Wh unit or larger, plus solar to recharge Leave home fully charged; refill from wall, car, or solar Let gas and propane make heat; save the battery for electronics

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LiFePO4 units are safe indoors and last for years Store it indoors, partly charged, above freezing, topped up every few months Get help: call Bill at (330) 200-8042

HOW I CAN HELP

25. For electrical, gas, water, or ladder work, please call a licensed professional. — Bill's Home Tech

Your Visit — and My Promise In-home visit — \$99 flat for your first visit. No contracts and no surprise charges, and a 30-day follow-up is included. Remote Support — \$49 for a screen-share session. I only connect with your permission, you watch the whole time, and you can end anytime. If I can't fix it over the screen-share, I refund the \$49 — and if it turns out you need me in person, that \$49 goes toward your visit. It's included free for Support Plan members (\$39/mo). My promise — If you're not 100% satisfied with your visit, I'll come back at no charge, or refund the full \$99. No questions, no awkwardness. That's how I'd want to be treated. Call or text (330) 200-8042 · Book a visit: billshometech.com/book · bill@billshometech.com This free guide is for general information only — not professional advice, and no substitute for your device's own manual. Any prices or outside products mentioned can change; please confirm current details before you buy. Please use your own good judgment and follow it at your own risk — for anything involving electricity, gas, water, or heights, stop and call a licensed professional. Bill's Home Tech and Bill Davis can't be responsible for any damage, data loss, or injury that results. © 2026 Bill's Home Tech, LLC.

AT A GLANCE

A Picture to Follow Along

Which Size Power Station Fits Your Trip?

Match the size to how far off the grid you go.

Small

A few hundred watt-hours
Phones, lights, a fan
A weekend with light
needs

Mid-Size

Around 500 to 1,000 Wh
A CPAP plus devices
A night or two off-grid

Large + Solar

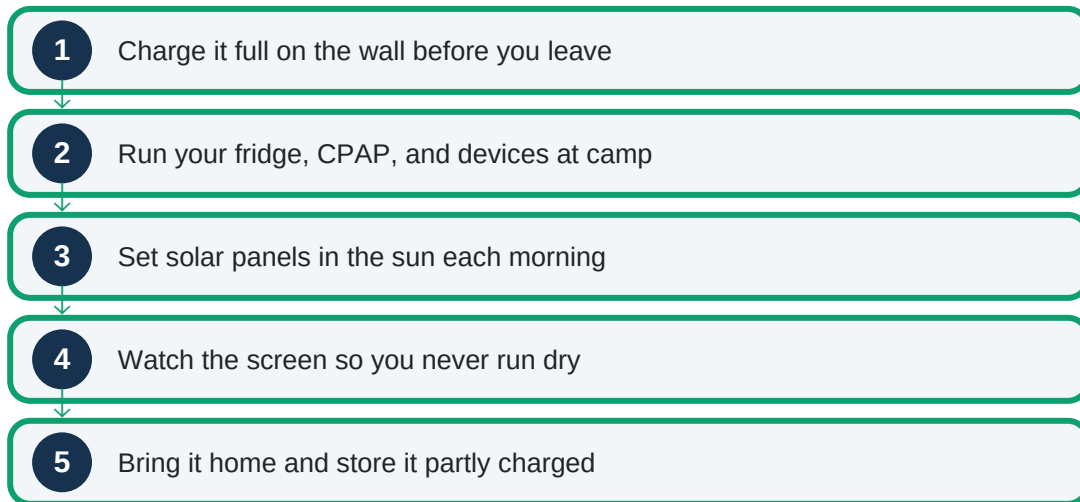
1,000 watt-hours and up
Fridge, CPAP, and more
A full week off the grid

AT A GLANCE

A Second Look

From Full Charge to a Week Off-Grid

A simple rhythm that keeps the power flowing.



BEFORE YOU GO

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 results.



HOW I CAN HELP

Your Visit — and My Promise

In-home visit — \$99 flat for your first visit. No contracts and no surprise charges, and a 30-day follow-up is included.

Remote Support — \$49 for a screen-share session. I only connect with your permission, you watch the whole time, and you can end anytime. If I can't fix it over the screen-share, I refund the \$49 — and if it turns out you need me in person, that \$49 goes toward your visit. It's included free for Support Plan members (\$39/mo).

GOOD TO KNOW

My promise — If you're not 100% satisfied with your visit, I'll come back at no charge, or refund the full \$99. No questions, no awkwardness. That's how I'd want to be treated.

Call or text **(330) 200-8042** · Book a visit: **billshometech.com/book** · **bill@billshometech.com**

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