



An Extended Guide · No. 1715

Your Well-Water Outage Checklist

The one page to print
and keep in a drawer

Tech Made Simple — Service Made Personal

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! Read this first — on a well, no power means no water

On a home with a private well, a power outage isn't just dark — it's dry. The pump that lifts your water runs on your home's electricity, so when the power stops, every tap, toilet, and hose stops with it. Keep a few days of stored drinking water on hand as a backup you can count on — a common guideline is about a gallon per person per day. And know this from the start: a well pump is almost always a 240-volt appliance wired straight into your electrical panel, so any backup hookup for it is a licensed electrician's job. Never try to feed it with a cord or by backfeeding an outlet — that is unsafe, against code, and can put deadly voltage on the power lines outside. This is the guide to print and keep in a drawer. When the power goes, you do not want to be reading — you want a simple checklist to follow. That is exactly what this is.

Your well-water outage checklist

This is the practical, keep-it-handly companion to the whole category — the checklists you actually follow when the power goes out, all in one place. Print it, fill in your details, and tuck it in a drawer.

I'm Bill, and I run Bill's Home Tech here in Portage County, Ohio. The other guides explain the why and the how. This one is pure doing: short lists you can run down without having to think or remember. In a dark, stormy moment, a good checklist is worth more than all the knowledge in the world.

Read it once now so it is familiar, fill in your household's details on the pages made for that, and keep a copy somewhere everyone can find it. Then, when an outage comes, you simply follow along — calm and sure.

★ Want help filling it in?

I am glad to help you complete the fill-in pages — your pump's numbers, your shutoffs, your contacts. Call or text me at (330) 200-8042 and we will make your checklist truly yours.

How to use this checklist

A checklist only helps if it is ready and findable. Here is how to get the most from this one.

- ❑ Print it, or copy the lists onto a card you keep in a known spot.
- ❑ Fill in your household details — pump numbers, shutoffs, contacts — on the pages provided.
- ❑ Read it once now, so the steps feel familiar before you need them.
- ❑ Keep a copy inside a kitchen or utility cabinet, with your home papers.
- ❑ Walk another household member through it, so you are not the only one who knows it.
- ❑ Review it when you change your clocks, and update anything that has changed.

✓ Findable beats fancy

A plain checklist taped inside a cabinet beats a beautiful one lost in a file. The whole value is being able to grab it in the dark and follow along.

Checklist 1 — when a storm is forecast

Most outages give some warning. This list turns that warning into a calm head start.

- ☐ Fill drinking-water containers and the bathtub while the power is on.
- ☐ Fill buckets for flushing and set them by the bathrooms.
- ☐ Top off water for pets and livestock; fill troughs.
- ☐ Check and top up generator fuel; check the oil.
- ☐ Charge phones, tablets, and any power station to full.
- ☐ Get the fridge and freezer good and cold; freeze water jugs to hold the cold.
- ☐ Bring the generator, cord, and flashlights to where you can reach them fast.
- ☐ In winter: make sure backup heat is ready and the house is warm.

Twenty minutes of this before an outage makes the outage itself almost easy. Our storing-water and game-plan guides explain the why behind each item.

✓ A forecast is a free head start

When bad weather is coming, run this list. It is the cheapest, easiest way to sail through whatever follows.

Checklist 2 — the first few minutes

What you do right when the power goes sets up everything else. Keep it calm and in order.

- ☐ Confirm it is a real outage — check a breaker or a neighbor.
- ☐ Note the time.
- ☐ Capture water now — fill containers and the tub from the pressure tank's reserve before it runs out.
- ☐ Check on anyone with medical needs, and any seniors.
- ☐ Find your flashlights and headlamp.
- ☐ Decide: short outage to ride out, or time to start the generator?

Notice that starting the generator is not first — capturing your pressure tank's small reserve is, because it runs out fast. Our pressure-tank and game-plan guides go deeper.

✓ Water first, then the generator

Spend the first few minutes capturing water while you still have pressure. Then turn to the generator with your water already secured.

Checklist 3 — starting and running the generator

The safety-critical list. Follow it every single time, in order.

- ❑ Set the generator OUTDOORS, well away from the house — at least 20 feet — exhaust pointed away from windows and doors.
- ❑ Never in a garage, shed, basement, or porch — not even with the door open.
- ❑ Check oil and fuel, then start it and let it settle for a moment.
- ❑ Connect it to the outdoor inlet box with the proper cord.
- ❑ Switch over at the panel through your transfer switch or interlock — never a backfeed.
- ❑ Turn off big loads, then start the pump; let it refill before adding other loads.
- ❑ Run in sessions — refill water and cool the fridge, then rest the generator.

! Outdoors only, never a backfeed

The two hard rules: run the generator well outside (carbon monoxide kills), and connect only through a transfer switch or interlock (a backfeed can kill a lineman). No exceptions, ever.

Checklist 4 — settling in

For an outage that stretches on, a steady rhythm keeps everyone comfortable.

- ☐ Keep the fridge and freezer closed between generator sessions.
- ☐ Refill water and let the fridge get cold right before each rest period.
- ☐ Conserve water: let it mellow, bucket-flush, reuse greywater, wash in a basin.
- ☐ Run the septic pump during a generator session if you have one.
- ☐ Check on the vulnerable and keep phones charged.
- ☐ Rest the generator at night; rely on the water and cold you banked.

This is the comfortable middle of an outage, once the first scramble is past. Our conserving-water and septic guides fill in the details.

✓ Bank water and cold before each rest

Right before shutting the generator down, top up your water and chill the fridge. Then a quiet rest period costs you nothing.

Checklist 5 — winter add-ons

A cold outage needs a few extra steps. Add these to the lists above when it is freezing.

- ☐ Prioritize heat — run the furnace on the generator (a gas furnace still needs power) or light backup heat.
- ☐ Keep the pressure tank, controls, and exposed pipes above freezing.
- ☐ Gather everyone in one warm room; layer up.
- ☐ Melt clean snow for flushing and cleaning; boil it for drinking.
- ☐ Use only indoor-rated heat — never an oven, grill, or camp heater indoors.
- ☐ If heat cannot be kept and the house is freezing, drain the pipes.

! Never heat indoors with an oven or grill

Ovens, grills, and camp heaters can produce deadly carbon monoxide indoors. Use only heat made for indoor use, and keep CO alarms working. See our winter guide.

Checklist 6 — when the power comes back

The end of the outage has its own short routine. Do it in order to protect your equipment.

- ☐ Make sure the power is truly back and steady — watch a few minutes for flickers.
- ☐ Switch back to the grid at the panel first, through your transfer switch or interlock.
- ☐ Let the generator run a moment with no load, then shut it off and let it cool.
- ☐ Check that the pump and water are working normally.
- ☐ After a storm or surge, watch for anything odd with the pump; call a pro if unsure.
- ☐ Refill fuel and water, and reset your kit for next time.

✓ Switch back, then shut down

Always switch back to the grid before shutting the generator off, and reset your supplies right away while it is fresh in your mind.

Checklist 7 — your readiness kit

Keep these together in one bin or corner, so the first dark minutes are a reach, not a hunt.

- ☐ Flashlights, a headlamp, and spare batteries.
- ☐ The generator cord, coiled and dry.
- ☐ Clean water containers and a couple of flushing buckets.
- ☐ Fresh fuel or a spare propane tank, stored safely outdoors.
- ☐ A no-rinse hygiene kit — wipes, hand sanitizer, no-rinse wash.
- ☐ This checklist, your household-info pages, and your contact list.
- ☐ For winter: warm layers, and backup heat ready to go.

✓ One bin, one place

Store the outage things together, not scattered. When the power goes, you reach for one bin, not search five rooms by phone light.

Two kinds of homes, two sets of needs

This checklist is built for a well home, but here is how it changes for each kind.

If you live in town or the suburbs

In town or the suburbs on city water, you can skip the water-capturing and water-conserving steps — your taps keep flowing. Your checklist is mainly about the generator safety steps, the fridge and furnace, and comfort.

- Skip the water-capturing steps — city water keeps flowing.
- Keep the generator safety steps in full — they apply to every home.
- Focus on the fridge, furnace, and comfort loads.
- A basement sump pump may be your equivalent of the pump step.

If you are out in the country on a well

Out in the country on a well, every checklist here applies — capturing water, running the pump, conserving, the septic pump, winter heat. This is the checklist's home.

- Use every list — water is on the line, not just comfort.
- The pressure-tank reserve and pump sessions are central.
- Include the septic pump and, in winter, the freezing steps.
- Plan for the longer outages rural lines are prone to.

★ Let's tailor the checklist to your home

Whether you are on a well or city water changes which lists you need. Call me at (330) 200-8042 and we will trim it to fit your home exactly.

Fill-in page 1 — your household details

Write these in (in pen, on your printed copy) so the facts are there when you need them, not in your memory.

- ☐ Water source: well or city? _____
- ☐ Pump voltage (usually 240): _____ Horsepower: _____
- ☐ Do I have a soft starter? _____ Constant-pressure/VFD? _____
- ☐ Pressure tank location: _____ Water heater drain valve: _____
- ☐ Do I have a septic pump? _____ High-water alarm location: _____
- ☐ Sump pump? _____ Backup heat source: _____

These are the facts that make every other decision easier — from sizing a generator to running an outage. Our sizing and pressure-tank guides help you gather them, or I am glad to help.

✓ Fill it in on a calm day

Gather these details now, at your kitchen table, not during an outage. Ask your well company for anything you do not know.

Fill-in page 2 — your shutoffs and switches

Knowing where these are, before an emergency, can save you a great deal. Write them down.

- ☐ Main water shutoff location: _____
- ☐ How to drain the pipes (steps or who to call): _____
- ☐ Electrical panel location: _____
- ☐ Transfer switch or interlock location: _____
- ☐ Generator inlet box location: _____
- ☐ Well pump breaker / circuit: _____
- ☐ Gas or propane shutoff (if any): _____

In a leak, a freeze, or an outage, knowing exactly where to go turns a crisis into a quick action. If you are unsure of any of these, have a pro show you once — then write it here.

! Know your main water shutoff

Of everything on this page, the main water shutoff is the one to learn first. In a burst-pipe emergency, it is the difference between a mess and a disaster.

Fill-in page 3 — your contact list

One list, everyone in one place. Tape it up where anyone can find it.

- ☐ Electric utility (and outage-report number): _____
- ☐ Well or pump contractor: _____
- ☐ Electrician: _____
- ☐ Plumber: _____
- ☐ Septic company: _____
- ☐ Doctor / pharmacy (for medical needs): _____
- ☐ Check-in person (neighbor or family): _____
- ☐ Bill's Home Tech: (330) 200-8042

When something goes wrong, you want the right number at hand, not a frantic search. Fill this in and keep it with your checklist. Add your utility's medical-priority line if you have registered.

★ Put my number on your list

For the tech and planning side — and to help reach the right pro — keep my number handy: (330) 200-8042. I am glad to be on your outage list.

Fill-in page 4 — special needs in your home

If anyone in your home has particular needs, note them here so the plan covers them.

- ☐ Anyone with medical needs? _____ Their key needs: _____
- ☐ Medications needing refrigeration: _____
- ☐ Powered medical devices (oxygen, CPAP, etc.): _____
- ☐ Extra water needed for medical/senior needs: _____
- ☐ Animals and their daily water needs: _____
- ☐ Who relocates where, if we must leave: _____

Planning for the specific people and animals in your home is what makes a checklist truly yours. Our medical-needs guide goes deeper on caring for those who need it most.

✓ Plan for the person, not just the house

A checklist that names your household's real needs — medicines, devices, animals — is one you can truly rely on. Fill this page in thoughtfully.

The whole outage on one card

If you copy nothing else, copy this. It is the entire outage in six lines.

When	Do this
Storm coming	Fill water and tub; fuel, charge, chill the fridge
First minutes	Capture water; check on people; find lights
Generator	Outdoors only; switch over safely; start the pump
During	Run in sessions; conserve; keep fridge shut
Winter	Heat first; protect pipes; drain if freezing
Power back	Switch to grid first; then shut down; refill

✓ **Copy this to a card for the panel**

Tape this six-line summary inside your electrical-panel door. It is the whole outage at a glance, right where you will switch over.

What I can do — and what I bring in a pro for

Here is my honest role in getting your checklist ready.

- **What I do:** help you fill in every page — pump numbers, shutoffs, contacts, special needs — and walk your household through the lists.
- **A licensed electrician** shows you your transfer switch and confirms the safe hookup for the generator steps.
- **A well or pump professional** provides your pump's numbers and shows you the pressure tank and shutoffs.

I am a patient tech helper with 30-plus years of experience, not a licensed electrician or well contractor — and I will always be clear about that. What I bring is making the checklist real and personal, so it is ready long before you need it.

★ Let's make your checklist real

A blank checklist helps no one; a filled-in one is priceless. Call or text (330) 200-8042 and we will complete yours together.

The mistakes that catch people out

Even with a checklist, a few slip-ups are common. Here they are.

- **Never filling it in**, so the details are still only in your head.
- **Hiding it away** where no one can find it in the dark.
- **Never practicing** the generator steps on a calm day.
- **Letting it go stale** — numbers and contacts that have changed.
- **Being the only one who knows it**, so a spouse or helper is lost.

Our common-mistakes guide covers the outage mistakes in full. For the checklist itself, the fixes are simple: fill it in, keep it findable, practice once, review yearly, and share it.

✓ A checklist is only as good as it is ready

Fill it in, keep it handy, practice once, and share it. A ready checklist is one of the best things you can have on a hard day.

Questions to answer as you complete it

As you fill in your checklist, these questions make sure nothing is missed.

Q: Do I know my pump's numbers and where my shutoffs are?

If not, gather them from your well company and have a pro show you the shutoffs. Then write them on the fill-in pages.

Q: Can someone else in my home run this checklist?

Walk a spouse, family member, or neighbor through it, so you are not the only one who knows the plan.

Q: Is my kit complete and in one place?

Check it against the readiness-kit list, and store it where you can reach it in the dark.

Q: When did I last review and practice this?

Tie a review and a quick generator practice to the clock change, so it never goes stale.

✓ A yearly review keeps it sharp

Once a year — say, at a clock change — reread your checklist, update any changes, and do a quick generator practice. Five minutes keeps it reliable.

Common Questions

The questions I hear most about keeping an outage checklist.

Q: What is the single most important thing on the checklist?

The two safety rules: run the generator outdoors only, and never backfeed — always switch over through a transfer switch or interlock. Those protect lives.

Q: Where should I keep my checklist?

Inside a kitchen or utility cabinet, with your home papers, and a six-line summary taped inside your electrical-panel door. Somewhere you can grab it in the dark.

Q: How often should I update it?

Review it yearly — at a clock change is easy to remember — and update any numbers, contacts, or gear that have changed.

Q: Do I need all these lists if I'm in town on city water?

No — skip the water-capturing and conserving steps, and keep the generator safety steps and comfort loads. I can help you trim it to fit.

★ Still have a question? That is what I am here for

There is no silly question. Call or text me at (330) 200-8042 and we will get your checklist just right.

A gentle word about cost

This may be the best free tool in the whole category — a checklist costs nothing but a little time.

Printing a checklist and filling it in is free. The kit it points to is modest — flashlights, containers, buckets, a hygiene kit — much of which you likely have. The value it delivers, though, is large: a calm, confident outage instead of a frantic one, and fewer costly mistakes made in the dark.

I do not sell anything on this page and earn nothing from your checklist — it is simply one of the most useful things a well-water family can have. If you would like help filling it in and building the kit, that is where my visit comes in, at a flat \$99 with a 30-day come-back-free guarantee.

★ Free to make, priceless on a hard day

A filled-in checklist is free to create and worth a great deal when the lights go out. I am glad to help you complete yours — call or text (330) 200-8042.

Bringing it all together

If this guide did its job, you have a checklist ready to keep. Here is what to do with it.

- ❑ **Fill it in:** your pump numbers, shutoffs, contacts, and special needs.
- ❑ **Keep it findable:** in a cabinet, with a six-line summary at the panel.
- ❑ **Practice and share it:** run it once on a calm day, and make sure others know it.

A ready checklist is the simplest, cheapest, most reliable comfort in this whole category. Do those three things and the next outage becomes something you simply follow along with, calm and sure.

★ And whenever you would like a hand

That is exactly what I do — come to your home, work at your pace, and never make you feel rushed or silly for asking. Call or text me at (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 building your well-water outage checklist 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.

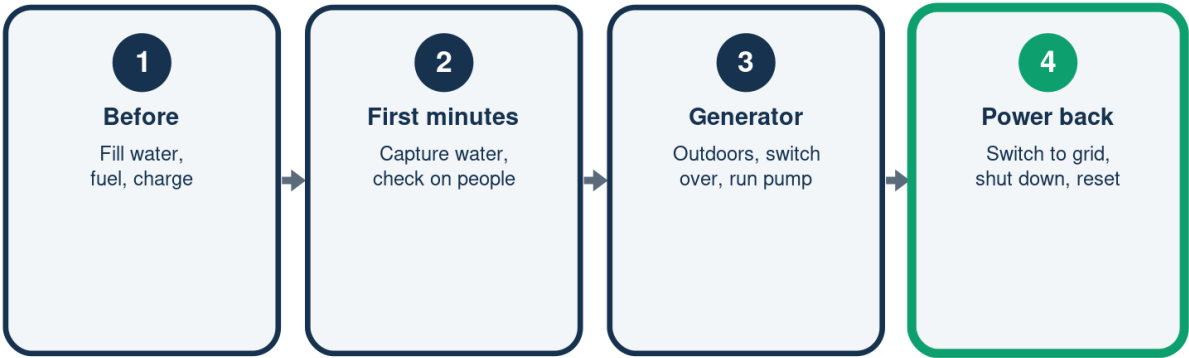
When you'd rather have a hand, that's exactly what I do. I come to your home, work at your pace, and never make you feel rushed or silly for asking. A first visit is a flat \$99, and for the parts that don't need me on-site I can often help right on your screen for \$49. Every visit comes with a 30-day,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

The Outage Timeline

Six moments, one checklist



Follow the list -- no need to remember it all.

The Whole Outage on One Card

Tape this inside your panel door

	When	Do this
Storm coming	Fill water,	fuel, chill fridge
First minutes	Capture water,	check on people
Generator	Outdoors; switch	safely; start pump
Power back	Grid first,	then shut down

The entire outage, at a glance.

Your Readiness Kit

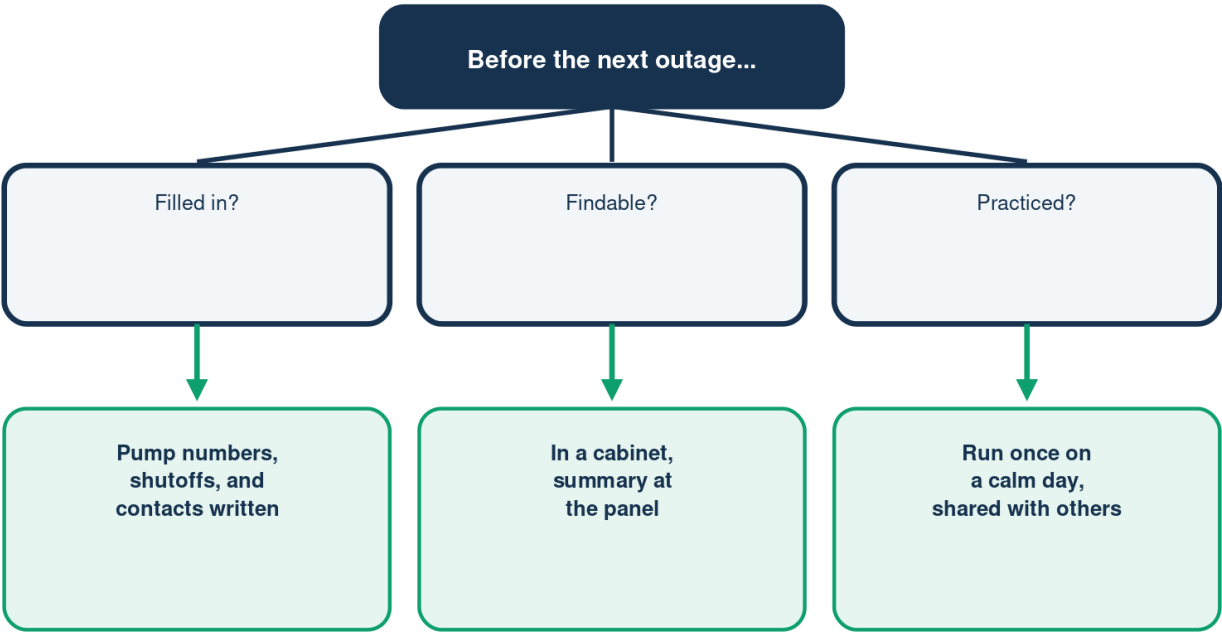
One bin, ready to grab

	Item	For
Flashlights	Light in	the dark
Generator cord	Connecting	safely
Water + buckets	Drinking and	flushing
Hygiene kit	Staying clean	on little water

Keep it all in one place you can reach in the dark.

Is My Checklist Ready?

Three quick checks



A checklist only helps if it is filled in, findable, and practiced.

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



Need a Real Person?

You do not have to remember all of it.
You just have to remember you can call.
Friendly, in-home tech help -- I come to you.

BILL'S PROMISE

If you are not 100% happy with a visit, I will make it right -- or refund it. No awkwardness, no fine print. That is how I would want to be treated.

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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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