

DON'T LOSE CONTROL WHEN YOU LOSE POWER **Prepare Yourself, Your Home and Your Garage**

Mother Nature is full of surprises, including knocking out the power in your home without warning. In fact, in a recent survey, 93 percent of homeowners¹ reported having experienced a power outage this year alone, with some outages lasting hours or even days. While it is nearly impossible to predict an electrical power outage, it is smart to prepare for one. Power outages, in addition to the minor inconveniences they cause homeowners, can also trigger serious safety and security issues. The Chamberlain Group, a leader in residential and commercial access solutions, has provided some powerful tips to help you and your family weather the storm of the next power outage in your area.

Bright Ideas for Blackouts – Prepare Your Home

⚡ Every family should prepare an emergency kit for storms and power outages and keep it in a handy and central location. Items within the kit should include:

- Flashlights, extra batteries, matches and candles
- A battery-operated weather radio
- A full-charged cell phone battery and a traditional (non-cordless) telephone
- A cooler and ice
- First aid supplies
- Bottled water and non-perishable packaged or canned foods and snacks
- Blankets, towels and pillows
- Toys, books and games

⚡ Be prepared for a power outage in all types of weather. Items you may need to withstand a power outage during the peak of summer are not the same as those you may need during a winter storm.

⚡ A power outage may be a blown fuse or tripped breaker. Make sure all family members know the location of the breaker panel so that they can check it first when the power goes out.

Always Have Access – Don't Forget the Garage

⚡ With the power out, so are your chances of using your automatic garage door opener. Whether attempting to pull the car in or out of the garage or for the majority of families (55 percent) who use the automatic garage door opener to access their home through the garage as a main entranceway, be sure to take the following back-up power precautions:

- To avoid being blocked from entering and exiting your garage during an outage, install a garage door opener with the EverCharge® Standby Power System. Install a Chamberlain® branded unit yourself or contact a LiftMaster® dealer for a professional installation and service.
- The EverCharge Standby Power system, which can supply power to open and close the garage door for up to two days, can also deter any unwelcomed guests during an outage.

⚡ The garage is an extension of the home and may also be an area of key preparation for power outages.

- Since an operating garage door opener also serves as a lock to the garage door, a power outage can create a security issue for homeowners.
- Having a garage door opener with the EverCharge Standby Power System can help eliminate this worry since it remains operational, but homeowners should also have a phone chain system in place to help make sure the garage door is secure for neighbors who may not be home.

⚡ Know how to manually open and close your garage door during a power failure. Although inconvenient, test out your ability to ensure you can physically lift the heaviest and largest moving object in your home – the garage door. If your garage door opener is equipped with the EverCharge Standby Power System you are already covered.

⚡ If a car is parked in the garage, be sure to manually open the garage door before turning the car ignition on and attempting to exit.

Family Matters – Keeping Your Family Functioning

⚡ Do not panic. To help keep family members and children calm, tell stories and play games that require little light, such as trivia, guessing games, even shadow puppets.

⚡ Stay away from all fallen power lines. Assume all wires are live and dangerous. If you spot a downed wire, never touch it with any part of your body or other objects. Report it immediately to your power company.

⚡ If possible, check in on neighbors who may require special assistance, such as those with infants, disabilities or the elderly.

Surges Happen – Unplug and Save Your Appliances

⚡ Open the refrigerator and freezer doors only when necessary. Keeping a cooler and extra ice or ice packs on hand to store essentials and items that may easily spoil is an easy way to avoid having to access the refrigerator or freezer multiple times. To ensure that all food is safe to consume, follow this general set of guidelines:

- A freezer that is half full should keep food frozen for 24 hours. A full freezer should keep food safely frozen for up to 48 hours. A full refrigerator should keep food for approximately six hours.
- Before cooking or eating food that has been in a refrigerator or freezer during an outage, use a food thermometer to check the temperature. Any food with a temperature of 40 degrees Fahrenheit or more should be thrown away.

⚡ Power surges can sometimes occur when power is being restored after an outage, especially as household appliances start up at the same time. To avoid costly damage and the possibility of causing another outage, be sure to unplug all major appliances and electronics, such as computers and televisions during an outage. Using power strips with surge protectors is also an easy and cost-efficient way to protect electrical appliances.

⚡ In addition to unplugging appliances, remember to also turn off your furnace, water heater and water pump. Leave one light in the "on" position so you can easily tell when power has been restored.

¹ Chamberlain study conducted by Zoomerang, Division of Market Tools, Inc., October 9-13, 2008. The nationally representative online survey was completed by 1,024 homeowners. Margin of error is (+/-) 3% at the 95% level of confidence.