

BLACK START SURVIVAL CHECKLIST:

PHASE 1: IMMEDIATE ACTIONS (Do Today) *These tasks cost nothing but time. They must be done while the internet and power grid are fully functional. If you wait for the event, these are impossible.*

- Secure Hard Copies: Print Social Security earnings, benefit letters, bank statements, insurance policies, and immunization records.
- Proof of Ownership: Secure certified physical copies of home deeds, land surveys, and vehicle titles.
- Digital Off-Ramp: Liquidate crypto and volatile tech stocks. Move funds to accessible accounts or cash.
- Data Backup: Download a full offline backup of cloud photos and critical documents to a hard drive.
- Offline Knowledge: Download Kiwix (offline Wikipedia) onto a tablet or laptop.
- Debt Triage: Stop paying unsecured debt (credit cards). Prioritize property taxes.
- EMP Protection (CRITICAL): Buy Faraday bags or build a trash can/cardboard/aluminum foil shield. Store your solar inverter, spare radio, and the tablet with Wikipedia inside it immediately. Do not wait for the flare.

PHASE 2: WATER, FOOD & HYGIENE (Physiological Baseline) *If these systems fail, you will die from dehydration or disease before starvation sets in.*

- Water Storage: Fill bathtubs and dedicated storage containers immediately.
- Water Filtration: Gravity-fed drip filters (Berkey/Lifestraw style) and Calcium Hypochlorite (Pool Shock) for bulk treatment.
- Sanitation: 5-gallon buckets, heavy-duty contractor bags (3 mil), and a stockpile of sawdust or peat moss (for waste management).
- Infection Control: Stockpile Antibiotics (Amoxicillin/Doxycycline or "Fish Mox") and a dental emergency kit (Clove oil, temporary filling).
- Food Supply: A mix of "No-Cook" ready-to-eat cans (for the first 2 weeks) and heirloom seeds (for next season).
- Cooking: Solar oven or outdoor grill (save fuel for emergencies).

PHASE 3: SECURITY, POWER & SHELTER *Once biological needs are met, you must protect your location and maintain core temperature.*

- Passive Heat: Wood-burning stove or indoor-safe propane heater (Mr. Heater Buddy) with CO2 detectors.
- Light Discipline: Blackout curtains for all windows. At night, your house must look dark from the street.
- Defense: Firearms and sufficient ammunition.
- Fire Safety: Large ABC-rated fire extinguishers (fire services will not come).

- Solar Power: Solar generator and portable panels. Keep panels disconnected from the unit until the solar storm passes.
- Situational Awareness: Binoculars and solar-powered motion sensor lights for the perimeter.

PHASE 4: INFORMATION & COMMUNICATION *Connecting to local news and establishing a local network.*

- Radio Hardware: GMRS/Ham/CB Radios and a generic AM/FM/Shortwave radio for news.
- Physical Maps: DeLorme Atlas (Roads) and topographic maps of your county.
- The "Neighbor Packet": Prepare a 1-page summary of what you can offer neighbors (e.g., "I can filter water") to trade for security.
- Codebook: Establish a simple book cipher (using a common book) with family members for secure radio communication.
- Vision: Spare prescription glasses and bulk reading glasses.

PHASE 5: LOGISTICS, BARTER & MOBILITY *Extending your range and economic ability.*

- Cash Reserve: Small bills (\$1s, \$5s, \$10s) for the first 2-3 weeks of commerce.
- Hard Currency: Junk Silver (Pre-1964 dimes/quarters) for trade once paper money loses trust.
- High-Value Barter: Alcohol, caffeine, matches, lighters, salt, batteries (Eneloop).
- Hygiene Stockpile: Feminine hygiene products and diapers (high trade value).
- Mobility: Rugged mechanical bicycle (with spare tubes/pump) and a wagon/cart for hauling water/wood.
- Tools: Non-electric hand tools (axes, saws, manual drills).

PHASE 6: LONG-TERM STABILITY *Managing mental health and extended duration.*

- Mental Health: Board games, instruments, playing cards. Stockpile melatonin or CBD to manage stress/sleep during the transition.
- Pet Supplies: 3 months of food and flea/tick medication.
- Physical Security: A fireproof safe for documents and silver.
- Backup Power: Gas generator with fuel stabilizer (run this sparingly to charge the solar setup if needed).