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How to Heat and Light a House Without Electricity

By an eHow Contributor

Whether a storm or the next crisis strikes without warning, you and your [family](#) are totally dependent on resources outside of your control for electricity to heat and light your home. Being independent enough to manage without electricity for a few days will give you a justifiable sense of security as well as allow you to relax and enjoy the company of the ones you love in an intimate, rustic setting. Here are some steps to help you prepare.

Difficulty: Moderate

Instructions

Things You'll Need

- Gas-powered generator
- Gas tank full of gasoline
- Wood stove or fireplace insert
- Firewood
- Coal
- Matches
- Candles
- Oil lamps
- Wicks
- Lamp oil

- 1 Purchase a gas-powered generator if you have the means. Store enough gasoline to operate the generator a few hours a day to run lights, pump water, power the compressors on your refrigerator and freezer. Make sure you rotate the gasoline with your lawn care equipment and possibly your [car](#) because gasoline no longer stores well for more than a

couple of months even when treated with gasoline stabilizer.

- 2 Install an iron wood stove or fireplace insert that works as a wood stove. Wood stoves are extremely simple and efficient, and will keep your entire home warm enough to be comfortable in for as long as you continue to burn wood or coal, especially if located in the same room where you will spend most of your time. You can even cook or heat water on them.
- 3 Lay in a large stock of matches. You can never have too many. Store both large kitchen matches and smaller wooden matches.
- 4 Collect and store a large amount of candles. This is a pleasant source of light and very easy to use. Make sure you also have plenty of practical candlesticks and holders. The best kind are 6- to 9-inch altar candles used by the Catholic church, which don't have much of a sense, burn slowly and drip wax only sparingly.
- 5 Locate and assemble a collection of oil lamps with glass globes or covers. Many hardware, garden or farm supply stores will sell them. Acquire different styles and sizes, but the best ones are the old-fashioned railroad conductor lanterns that you can carry around easily swinging from a wire handle without stressing the flame.
- 6 Buy plenty of extra oil (a couple of gallons in 1 or 2-quart bottles) and extra wicks.