

Winter Storm Preparedness Checklist

Lessons from Living Semi-Off-Grid

Courtesy of www.IdeaMarketers.com

(Print this and keep it handy before a major winter storm.)

Power & Energy

- Fully charge battery backup systems
 - Verify generator readiness (oil, connections, test run)
 - Confirm propane levels and estimate daily usage
 - Identify **high-draw appliances** (heat strips, electric stove, dryer)
 - Decide in advance which appliances will **not** be used
 - Shift energy-intensive tasks to **daylight hours**
 - Run heavy loads while solar is actively producing
 - Plan generator use as a **battery-charging tool**, not 24/7 power
 - Keep extension cords and power strips accessible (use safely)
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Heating Strategy

- Set heat pumps to **minimum safe temperature** (50–55°F) to protect pipes
 - Avoid full system shutdown in freezing conditions
 - Use electric space heaters **sparingly and safely**
 - Lower thermostats at night; increase gradually during peak sun
 - Seal drafts around doors, windows, and outlets
 - Install clear plastic insulation on windows
 - Close unused rooms but allow airflow where pipes run
 - Monitor indoor humidity to reduce heat loss
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Solar Awareness

- Note expected **daily winter solar production**
- Track peak sun hours for your location
- Time showers and hot water use during solar production
- Avoid large temperature jumps that trigger heat strips
- Keep panels clear of snow and debris (if safe to do so)

Water Security

- Confirm well pump power plan (solar/generator)
 - Store backup drinking water
 - Fill bathtubs or containers if storm risk increases
 - Minimize unnecessary water usage
 - Know how to manually shut off water if pipes freeze
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Food & Cooking

- Complete laundry and dishes **before the storm**
 - Stock easy, low-power meals
 - Favor toaster oven, slow cooker, or grill over electric stove
 - Prepare propane grill and outdoor cooking setup
 - Have firepit or alternative cooking method ready
 - Keep cookware for fire or grill accessible
 - Plan meals that don't require constant power
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Comfort & Safety

- Lay out extra blankets and warm clothing
 - Keep flashlights and lanterns charged
 - Stock batteries and matches
 - Check smoke and carbon monoxide detectors
 - Keep pets' needs in mind (warmth, water, food)
 - Move daily-use items to one or two heated zones
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Mental & Practical Prep

- Decide your **daily energy budget**
 - Accept temporary discomfort as part of resilience
 - Reduce decision fatigue by planning ahead
 - Keep notes on what works—and what doesn't
 - Remember: calm choices conserve more energy than panic
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Final Thought

Preparedness isn't about fear or perfection. It's about **awareness, flexibility, and thoughtful choices**—especially when winter shows up uninvited.