

Stay Warm Without Electricity

Here are several ways you can stay warm this winter even if you lose power.

The traditional heating method is with wood.

You could install a wood stove like this one



There are many types of wood stoves. But keep in mind this will have to be professionally installed.

Then it requires you buying & storing firewood for the winter.

Then you have the mess that carrying firewood into your home always brings.

And if that were not enough you will need to clean the ash out of your stove when it gets full of ash.

***WARNING** ONLY handle ash in approved metal containers, once you empty your ash into the metal container you **MUST** let it set (away from anything combustible) for 4 days minimum before you empty the ash into your 'plastic' trash cans.

Every winter someone always burns their house down by emptying ash (with still hot smoldering embers into their plastic trash can in their garage and then it flashes back to life and burns their house down.

PLEASE FOLLOW THE PROFESSIONAL'S RECOMMENDATION IN HANDLING ASH – AT ALL TIMES!

Your home owner's insurance just may **NOT** cover you burning down your own home with hot embers being dumped into your plastic trash can in your garage or beside your house.

DO NOT THINK THAT IT IS OUT, THINK THAT IT STILL HAS HOT EMBERS EVEN AFTER IT HAS SET IN A METAL CAN EVEN 3 DAYS. I GIVE MINE A WEEK TO BE SURE.

There are many draw backs to heating with wood, cost, safety, insurance, wood procurement & storage, ash handling, the cost of having a chimney sweep clean your flu out once a year, the mess, so a lot of people will opt **NOT** to heat with wood even as an alternative heat source. But this is just an option.

The price of wood varies with availability and the type of wood you want to burn. NEVER burn soft woods such as pine as that will just add to the creosote buildup in your flue and make your flue more prone to a chimney fire which almost always ends up with the home destroyed.

My local Oak seasoned is about \$80 to \$100 a rick. A rick of Hickory or Cherry will cost you more. Sometimes they charge an extra \$20 to deliver & stack it for you.

Seasoned wood is important many will claim their wood is seasoned when it has only been setting cut for 3 months. Seasoned wood needs to be cut, stacked & covered from the rain for 7 to 8 months to be considered seasoned. IF you find a good reasonable source for seasoned wood write their number down and buy only from them.

Be aware that unseasoned wood will NOT burn or at least very good. I find myself constantly pulling wood off the bottom of my wood pile to find left over wood from the year before and with that I get a good fire burning hot and then I will throw on top a piece of my new and unseasoned wood and THAT will be the only way you will be able to burn green wood.

Be sure to ask: IS YOUR WOOD SEASONED & WHEN WAS IT CUT & STACKED AND WAS IT COVERED?

Do not be afraid to turn down green wood, shop around ask others where they get their good seasoned wood. As you do not want to be in a cold house with no heat and two tons of green wood THAT WILL NOT BURN in your garage.

If you buy a wood stove read & follow all warnings & precautions that come with your wood stove.

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Your next option is to heat with a propane heater such as pictured below.



With a propane heater there is much less fuss & muss.

Unless you are very handy and have experience in working with gas lines, it is recommended that you have the gas line plumbing and the installation done professionally.

All propane cylinders full or empty MUST be kept outdoors, so you will need to locate your full supply tank OUTSIDE near where your propane heater will be located inside (near an exterior wall).

Your installer will need to drill a hole in your wall to run your gas line from the tank outside to your heater inside.

It is recommended that you keep the main valve shut off at the cylinder (at all times) and ONLY turn it on when it gets cold and you need to run your propane heater. Once cold weather sets in then you can turn on the main valve at the cylinder, light your pilot light and with the controls on your heater you can then turn it on, turn it up or down or off as needed.

Once you have this installed, and your gas lines professionally installed, your full tank of gas is only then turned on and your pilot light lit after that there is little more that you need to do.

Turn it off, only leaving the pilot light lit, when not needed to save gas.

BUT you will need to then fill propane bottles and lug them heavy things around to resupply your propane every season.

This is best done in the summer or early fall as it is no fun going out in the cold getting these bottles filled.

I use the 100 pound tanks, full they weigh about 200 lbs. when full, they are very heavy and it will require a hand truck to maneuver these around your home.

PLEASE NEVER EVER drop one of these tanks especially if it is full of gas.

IF you ever drop an empty tank you should have it inspected before you refill it again.

And IF you drop a full tank, I hope you are a world class sprinter because you will need to be.

These tanks are pressurized and the gas inside is highly flammable (even explosive). And IF the situation ever arises that you see you are about to drop one of these full tanks onto say a cement floor, my recommendation is DO NOT DO IT!

When I pull one of these full tanks off my truck I place a piece of plywood on the ground where the tank bottom will land on it to soften the blow, in case I ever drop it a little hard.

BE EXTREMELY CAREFUL WHEN HANDLING THESE PROPANE TANKS AND ESPECIALLY IF THEY ARE FULL OF GAS. TREAT THEM WITH MUCH RESPECT LIKE YOU WOULD A BOMB AS THAT IS WHAT IT IS IN THAT CYLINDER.

You will need several propane tanks to get you through the winter. IF you use the propane heater strictly as an emergency heat source you can get by with one, but I would recommend a minimum of two filled tanks. As you do not want to run out of gas in a blizzard and then find yourself with no power (and no heat).

For a typical winter I use 6 – 100 lbs. tanks of gas along with my wood stove. But I have an older large home with lots of air leaks.

But I do not have any other way to heat my home so I must stay on top of my wood supply and my supply of propane.

Also: For some strange reason I always seem to run out of gas at night and in the middle of a cold snap and I find myself outdoors handling the swapping of tanks in temperatures near zero. So, if you heat with propane prepare for that the best you can. IF you can locate the supply tank under a covering that will keep the wind, rain & snow off you the better.

Also, you should install some type of lighting even solar lights are better than nothing working in the dark, cold with snow blowing trying to swap out bottles so your family can get warm again, is no fun.

BUT even with this, it is better than going out every 2 to 4 hours to carry in firewood back into your house.

These free-standing propane heaters they say you can set them on carpet BUT me personally I would NEVER do this. PLEASE if you must install this heater on a carpet at least set it on some bricks and set those on a large catch pan to keep it away from the carpet

WARNING; this heater heats with what I would consider an open flame, SO NEVER EVER allow anything flammable anywhere near the front of this heater or above it.

My propane heater is in my kitchen near the dining room table and I am always finding someone's jacket on a chair only a foot or maybe two feet away from the flame of this heater. I will quickly remove it and I must keep warning everyone this is an open flame in the house and to keep everything especially flammable things well away from this heater.

If you buy a propane heater read & follow all warnings & precautions that come with your propane heater.

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Here is a home-built methanol room heater

Below is the video that details the building of this heater.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JGVZVCU8FGE>



This is very interesting & it appears to actually work & not like those funny little flower pot heaters that never seem to work.

The problem is physics you must use energy to make heat.

NOW if you are talking about emergency heat for use for several hours or even for a couple of weeks, we have had several reports this home-built heater works really good.

It will NOT heat your whole house BUT it will heat your living room and maybe your dining room & kitchen as well.

It will give your home enough heat to keep your water pipes from freezing and make your living room comfortable to live in while your home is without power.

NOW some people are concerned about its fuel, Methanol it is only a form of Alcohol and this heater puts out a lot of heat and uses only a little fuel. As with any flammable material use it with extreme caution and read and adhere to all precautions & warnings.

If you are a tinkerer this will be an easy project for you to build. Even for a novice this is an easy project.

As with all devices that burn with a flame NEVER get anything flammable to close to this heater. Locate this heater on something that is NON-FLAMABLE. I would recommend on top of a wood stove as that is solid steel or cast iron and is made for lots of heat.

I would recommend that you build two burner assembly's so when you need to re-fuel your heater you just swap the whole burner assembly for a new one already filled with fuel and ready to replace the empty burner assembly.

Because trying to refuel a hot burner with a flammable liquid could be a major problem & a safety issue. NEVER DO THIS.

Fueling the burner assembly must be done outdoors in case there is any spillage. And yes, you will need to refuel this every 4 hours or so.

Always wipe up any excess fuel and discard the rags or paper towels in a trash can away from any heat source or flame.

We take no responsibility for any complications with this heater, we are simply passing on this information for you to see.

IF you decide to build this heater you do so at your own risk.

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Kerosine/paraffin oil heater

Here is the video that describes this heater and how to assemble and use it.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jli2irMYWMo>

Here is where you can find the heater base is used as a cooker:

https://www.amazon.com/dp/B0CVW5HMY2?psc=1&smid=ALQ0WWBF4TY3V&ref=chk_typ_imgToDp



Here is where you can find the top of heater

https://www.amazon.com/dp/B0768H9BJQ?psc=1&smid=A2CVL15LTX03J&ref = chk_typ_imgToDp



I have ordered this heater as an optional heat source, just in case I need it. I believe in having a back up to the back up.

So, I personally have not reviewed this heater, but I have read some good reports on it, so I will give it a try. Some people are not very handy with tools or making things, the beauty of this heater is everything is already made, so there is no drilling, cutting and for

assembly you just insert the chrome top into the top of the heater, fuel it and it's ready to run.

As with all devices that have an open flame NEVER use this near or on top of anything flammable. And never have anything flammable above this device when in use.

Take extra caution when fueling and lighting this device. It is recommended you ONLY refuel this device outdoors.

So, I am not endorsing or recommending any of these heaters all this is just for your information and describes what others have done to keep warm in a power outage.

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Here is a cooker/heater which I use

It uses 3 cans of Sterno (which I will re-fill with methanol) when they run empty.

You can find this heater/cooker here:

https://www.amazon.com/dp/B0BQDW6628?ref=ppx_yo2ov_d_t_b_fed_asin_title&th=1



Any time you can get double duty from any survival item it is a win/win situation IF they both work. This appears to work as long as you do not intend to heat your whole house with just THIS.

Please read and adhere to all safety instructions with this unit.

And as always, this heats with a flame so keep this away from anything flammable and DO NOT sit this unit on anything flammable.

IF YOU MUST locate this on say your kitchen table, I would at the very least set this unit on a large cookie sheet and then

place that on top of a couple of pot holders, on your kitchen table. But as always follow the manufacturers recommendations for using this unit.

I am NOT recommending any of these heaters I am simply giving you alternatives that are out there to help keep you warm in a power outage.

WARNING any time you use any type of flame to heat with you should have properly working & installed smoke detectors and carbon monoxide detectors in your home to use any device which heats with a flame. To be safe.

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12-volt Electric Blankets



When I drove truck back in the 80s & 90s they had 12 volt electric blankets then, but they were small with no options and no settings. But today on Amazon you can find a huge selection of sizes, colors, options for 12 & 24 volt blankets, power heat settings and timers to automatically shut your electric blanket off after so long.

You can find some of these with their own power source. Or you can power these with an optional solar generator. Or if you built the 12 volt Solar Room Cooler you can add a charge

controller and a couple Lithium Iron Phosphate batteries and power several LED lights in your home plus your 12 volt electric blanket too.

The reason I mention these 12 volt electric blankets is even with a wood stove or a propane heater they tend to heat well the one end of your house where they are located but your other end of your home (usually your bedrooms will stay pretty cool, this way you can be cozy & warm even away from your heat source.

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Charge controller MPPT 20 AMP for LiFePO4 Battery Charging Mode

https://www.amazon.com/12V-24V-Controller-Adjustable-Indicators/dp/B0BJ75NLRM/ref=sr_1_2?crid=115DPREU232OH&dib=eyJ2IjojMSJ9.yga9b9-refSUzzQ4WxhGmRLxVPd0ADerT2S5ut3_oOqHbygP0c6rh_bIFkbZ02-4iaog2qk1dvMEJHrpkaDR0fpB7Msb5ntC-p-gmzJbzEPSSg8knc8YYPx8k2U0g4shKxJUo3ttlInu3uEW8OcSD9nkHy1z7WM9_ORoupDjiqWYgQJvkhL-g5eo21JyRccpDLpjhCKASb9BVgWsQPNnak_UpxPMzIBBY_-D9KV6sLT0.rP-0La4nh0VMP0oxK-WZOYT8XMPGdhUWnSrAB6o0m_Q&dib_tag=se&keywords=Li%2BTime%2Bcharge%2Bcontroller&qid=1736579645&sprefix=li%2Btime%2Bcharge%2Bcontroller%2Caps%2C128&sr=8-2&th=1



This is only a recommendation; you can use any charge controller you want.

Just be sure it will charge LiFePO4 Batteries.

I use this same controller but in the 60 AMP version.

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A good LiFePO4 Battery 12 volt 100 AMP hour battery

https://www.amazon.com/SIEKON-Low-Temp-Protection-Trolling-Off-Grid/dp/B0CYKT8DGM/ref=sr_1_20?crid=C4785FBA24B1&dib=eyJ2ljojMSJ9.d60fU-WhV2hus2oB6Y1ttGZysNQ2p9jPOFlvuY5WKBGK_SkXnnqniYq9iaW2N6fESo14-niR9OsgDN9WM2jQ-hVqSuwDh4l6GXjQC-qH1wufpmYLI0bYNfa79dA5yhRaEckBlzTvTnPvN36Z-EnzXdFYqDnmZX23ne4SDX0--z2yz5kzSaDLTbfG9NRvMolXmk3C-q3eDatm8LmJPjPD7gy77BKcbE40w_mIBebei4g.khXDVvWiortcDM9x6du8Vqy1RBECCJLcr1zgFMjiiEE&dib_tag=se&keywords=lifepo4%2Bbattery%2B100ah&qid=1736580242&srefix=LiFePO4%2BBattery%2B%2Caps%2C221&sr=8-20&xpid=VzsqxPDxn67eB&th=1



Again, this is only a recommendation. You can use any battery you desire but the LiFePO battery has many advantages over traditional battery's. This battery can be used and stored in a home indoors as it does not give off explosive gases. This battery includes a BMS Battery Maintenance System which protects the battery in case it is over

charged, undercharged, even to cold to operate, it protects this battery.
Plus it has an extra long life over traditional batteries.

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150W Monocrystalline 150 Watt Solar Panel

An if you need solar panels here are some inexpensive 12 volt 150 watt solar panels. They are under \$100.00 for 150 watts of power.



https://www.amazon.com/Alrka-Monocrystalline-Compact-Design-Efficiency/dp/B0C5LYCQ94/ref=sr_1_1_sspa?crd=A2KKIRZVFDST&dib=eyJ2IjoiMSJ9.R_Q4a78Ax_cc_s54Q1QOPgjaWTkxQNyD9Uf_0kN2IBu41Xx-QiIOM2vhhhk18O3dHHcuxTRtXafJAsNX3C-RqbdKxa8y3FHhTQgFQPX3HUQXTW0yxsX5JrHCnddj2phG-p_lC9-5PFsRfYhuw74nAZCLwBys70Zvo_0XLDM2W4r-o_ppQX7oh4pRl_l2_XrpfL1oAtPnaoa8-hg6w91Ljf_L7Xsc4u0kkNHdoZhFMdA.f3GsfD_9oBUoSQ-Uxh3Z8qBOsLo0Q8-o1umFFCUZU2w&dib_tag=se&keywords=150W%2BMonocrystalline%2B150%2BWatt%2BSolar%2BPanel&qid=1736612498&sprefix=150w%2Bmonocrystalline%2B150%2Bwatt%2Bsolar%2Bpanel%2Caps%2C180&sr=8-1-spons&sp_csd=d2lkZ2V0TmFtZT1zcF9hdGY&th=1

Durable, dependable & long-lasting solar panels once installed they will give you many years of trouble-free service.

These are more suitable for roof mounting or frame mounting.

The solar panels, batteries & charge controller are included here in case you need that info. And these items are only needed if you are installing a 12 volt solar system to charge batteries to power such things as: lights, radio, 12 volt TV, 12 volt clocks, 12 volt fan or a 12 volt electric blanket.

Installation instructions may or may not be provided by the distributor or manufacturer of these products.

I sincerely hope all this will help you keep a warm home especially when your power goes out.

Please note: that I am not responsible for any damages or injuries caused by your building or using these devices. This information is only provided as reference and educational material ONLY.

Sorry but I must include a disclaimer (it is the times we live in).

God Bless

Tony Lamb

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