

BLACKOUT POWER KIT

Keep one house lit while the street goes dark, for about 400 dollars, not twelve thousand.

The backup power industry sizes your whole house at twenty thousand watts and sells you a twelve thousand dollar machine. Your real survival load, the fridge, the phones, the router, and one warm room, is about a thousand watt hours a day. Size to that honest number and a small power station plus a folding panel carries you.

THE ONE NUMBER

40 to 80 W

A modern fridge only sips this on average, because the compressor barely runs. It cycles on and off all day.

1000 Wh

What that fridge uses in a full day, about as much as a single bare bulb left on.

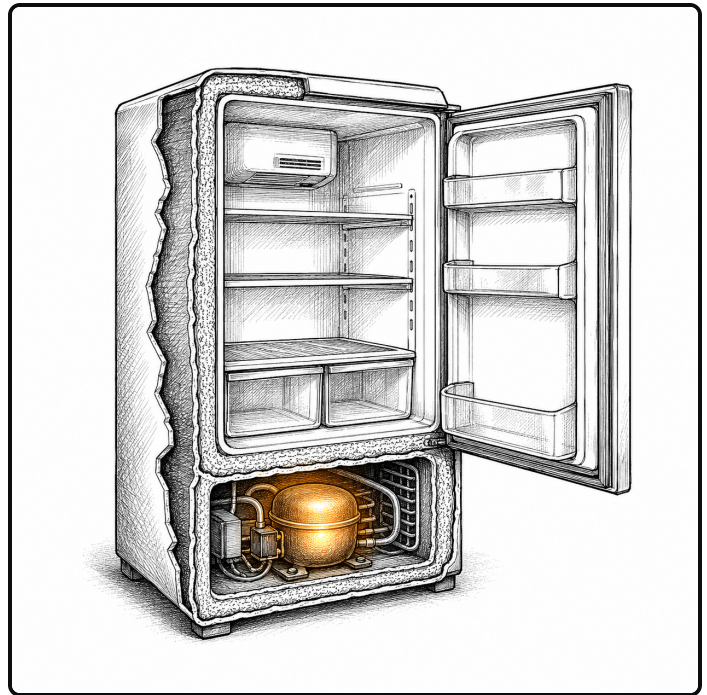
1000 to 1200 Wh

Your real survival load: fridge, three lamps, two phones, and the router, for a whole day.

The sales quote is built for twenty thousand watts. Your actual survival draw is a rounding error on that sheet.

THE OVERNIGHT TEST

- ☐ Charge the station full. Plug your actual fridge into it tonight and watch the percentage over 24 hours.
- ☐ A healthy fridge drops about 30 to 40 percent overnight. If it drops much more, your fridge runs hot or old, so size the station up.
- ☐ That single test measures your real duty cycle better than any spreadsheet.



A fridge is insulation with a small pump. The pump barely runs.

WHAT TO BUY

THE KIT, UNDER 600

Lives on a closet shelf, weighs about as much as a packed cooler, needs no permit and no installer.

300 to 450 dollars

Lithium iron phosphate power station. Around a thousand watt hours. Pure sine wave. Inverter rated at least fifteen hundred watts so it handles the fridge startup surge.

100 to 150 dollars

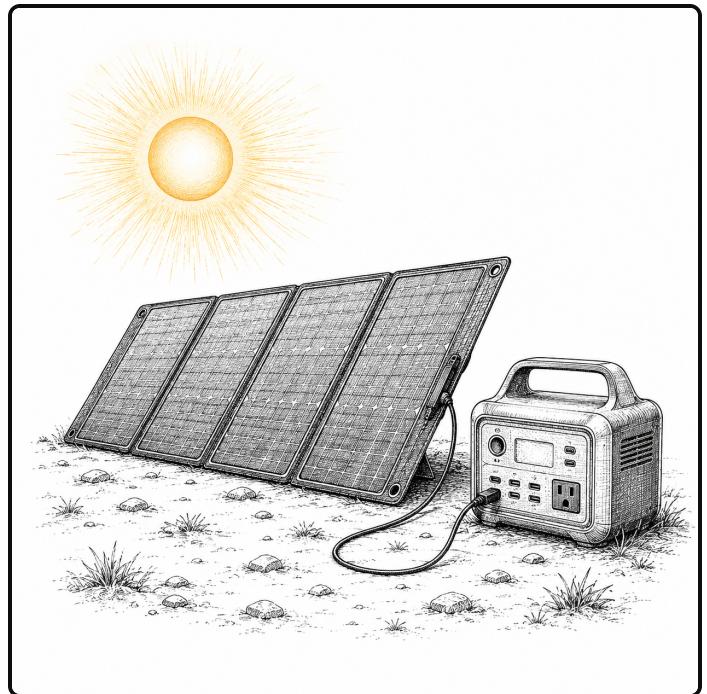
200 watt folding solar panel. Buy the same brand as the station, or confirm the plug and the voltage match before you order.

extension

Grounded heavy duty cord rated well above the fridge draw. Power the fridge by cord, straight from the station.

DOES THE MATH CLOSE

- ☐ Two hundred watts of panel times about 5 peak sun hours is a thousand watt hours on paper, call it around eight hundred after real world losses.
- ☐ Most of the country gets 4 to 5 peak sun hours a day, closer to 4 up north, less in deep winter.
- ☐ On a sunny day the panel gives back most of what you spent, the battery bridges the rest, and on a gray day you shed load until only the fridge draws.
- ☐ So a one day battery holds for as long as the sun keeps showing up.



Every sunny afternoon puts most of the day back.

GOOD TO KNOW

- ☐ A wall charge fills in one to two hours, so top it to full the moment a storm is in the forecast.
- ☐ Many lithium iron phosphate stations will not charge below freezing without built in heating. In winter keep the station indoors and run only the panel cable out into the cold.
- ☐ An unopened fridge holds safe cold about 4 hours, a full freezer about 48. Keep a thermometer inside and let the temperature make the call.

THE RULES AND THE REAL DANGER

RUN CORDS, NOT SCHEMES

This is an essential load backup. It will not run central air, an electric furnace, or a dryer, and it does not have to.



One warm window says somebody in this house saw it coming.



A box the size of a cooler, about 400 dollars.

SAFETY, DO NOT SKIP

- ☐ Buy pure sine wave only. Cheaper stepped power can leave a fridge running hot instead of purring.
- ☐ Power your appliances by cord, straight from the station. Never wire power backwards into a wall outlet to feed the house. That can electrocute a utility worker down the street.
- ☐ Never run a gas generator in a garage or up against a window. The carbon monoxide kills people in their sleep. If you own one, put it far outside and get a carbon monoxide alarm.

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