



Portable power banks are essential for maintaining communication during outages.

ESSENTIALS

- Carry two high-capacity power banks per person for backup energy.
- Include a solar or hand crank charger for off-grid recharging.
- Place a USB car charging cable and adapter in your vehicle.
- Store labeled charging cables in a dedicated, waterproof pouch for easy access.

Off-Grid Charging Solutions

Maintaining communication depends on keeping devices powered during outages. Before storms, charge phones, laptops, and power banks fully. Then conserve energy: enable airplane mode, dim screens, close apps – Federal Emergency Management Agency and Department of Energy advise this. Options include solar trickle chargers, hand crank units, car USB ports (with engine turned off for brief charging in well-ventilated areas), and vehicles equipped with bidirectional charging vehicle-to-home and vehicle-to-load. Keep at least two power banks per person and store charging cables in a sealed pouch.



Store and label charging gear to simplify use during emergencies.



Test solar charging gear regularly to ensure it performs reliably in an emergency.

PRO TIP

Store power banks in insulated containers during extreme heat or cold to extend battery life. Both high and low temperatures can rapidly drain power, even when devices aren't in use. Test all charging gear every three months to confirm it's working before an emergency occurs.

STEP-BY-STEP

- 1 Label each power source – power bank, solar, or hand crank – for quick identification and easy rotation during an emergency.
- 2 Prioritize charging essential devices such as mobile phones, emergency radios, and medical equipment.
- 3 Charge only one device at a time to conserve energy.
- 4 Avoid using USB hubs; plug directly.
- 5 Wrap cords securely to prevent loss.



Keep devices charged using solar, car, or crank power options.

PORTABLE POWER BANKS Portable power banks precharged in advance can keep your phone, flashlight, or radio powered during a blackout. Choose banks with at least 10,000 milliampere-hour capacity. Label them with the date they were last charged and use alternately every 3 to 6 months to maintain battery health.

ENERGY-SAVING HABITS

Even the best chargers won't help if power is wasted. Keep devices in low-power mode, disable background apps, and limit nonessential use. Text instead of calling, and turn off Wi-Fi and Bluetooth when not in use. These small habits stretch battery life, ensuring limited off-grid energy lasts longer.

SMART SOLAR CHARGING TIPS

- To charge devices efficiently with solar panels.
- Face panels directly toward the sun; adjust every 1 to 2 hours.
- Use panels with a built-in charge controller to avoid damaging electronics.
- Avoid overcast conditions solar panels lose efficiency in cloudy or shaded areas.
- Pretest your setup at home and label your cords to make usage quick and easy during an emergency.

Solar panels must face direct sunlight for efficient charging.

