

# BROWNOUTS

## PROTECT YOUR HOME WHEN THE POWER GOES OUT

Brownouts are an intentional or unintentional **drop in voltage** from utilities or other power sources that **can cause damage** to your home's electronics. Brownouts can cause damage to insulation and cause unexpected electronic failure in the future. A sustained brownout could cause **damage to electric motors** that are in everyday appliances including washing machines, dryers, fans, air conditioners, refrigerators, and freezers.



## PREPARE YOUR HOME FOR BROWNOUTS:

### BEFORE or DURING Brownouts

#### Uninterruptible Power Supplies

Uninterruptible power supplies (UPS) can **protect** against all power disturbances. These work by providing battery backup to critical electronics to protect them from sudden shutoffs.



Energy storage systems consist of batteries that **provide backup during service interruptions**. These can be used to power critical systems in your home. Energy storage systems can be paired with home solar power to become more energy independent. Utilities **may offer incentives** for energy storage systems.

#### Energy Storage

#### Smart Meters

Smart meters allow for **greater communication** between your home's electrical needs and your energy provider. These can help you **reduce energy costs** and provide utilities with more information on how much electricity is being used in their service areas.



#### Generators & Transfer Switches

Generators **provide energy during power interruptions**.

Both portable and standby generators should be **used with a transfer switch** to prevent unintentional energization of surrounding areas which could cause harm to utility workers or neighbors. **Install CO detectors** and keep generators at least **20 feet** from homes and away from doors and windows.



### RECOVERING from Brownouts

#### Surge Protective Devices

SPDs **protect against voltage spikes** that can cause damage to your electronics when full power is restored. Whole home surge protection is **required** in the **2020 National Electrical Code**.



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