

“Bright Ideas To Keep The Lights On” – By: Cheryl Storrs

When the power goes out having alternative lights will be invaluable. We need to have different types of lighting available for different uses and lots of choices ready at our finger tips. We need to ask ourselves the question...do we want to light up a whole room or have a bright beam to a specific area?

If what we have to use for light requires something to light it with we also need to have items stored like butane lighters, flint and steel, Sparkies or Blast matches and matches on hand? For matches I prefer the “Strike Anywhere” type. I also have waterproof matches in my Go Bag

Here is a list of options for lighting. These are listed in alphabetical order.

CANDLES:



Candles provide a soft, low light. Candles are cheap and easy to obtain and to store. The open flame presents a **fire hazard** and does consume a small amount of oxygen use with care. Candles do not give off enough light for reading by. Do not leave unattended or have near drafts. Candles have an indefinite shelf life. Store in a cool place.

- 3/4” diameter x 4” burns about 2:20 hours
- 7/8” diameter x 4” burns about 5 hours.
- 2” x 9” burns about 75 hours
- Tea light burns 2-4 hours

The Red Cross **does not** recommend using candles during a blackout as they have proven to be a major source of fires during an outage.

COOKING OIL: Emergency candles can be made from cooking oil. Take a piece of string, lay one end in cooking oil and allow the other end to hang over the edge of jar. Light the dry end. Use 7-8 stings for more light. These are very smoky and **should be used only when nothing else is available**. You can use new, rancid or used strained oil.

*Floating wicks are available to use in oil and make this method much safer. You can purchase these on Amazon.



BATTERY LANTERNS: Nice for general lighting. Available with florescent or LED bulbs which make the batteries last much longer. They are usually battery operated but there is also a hand crank model available with LED bulbs that claim to last for 20 minutes after 60 seconds of cranking. They are usually not very bright and do require stopping every 20 minutes or so a crank it up again.

EMERGENCY CANDLES (also called 100 hr candles): Come with a plastic base that is filled with liquid paraffin. It is smokeless, odorless, and has no hot wax to make a mess. It may last for over 100 hours. Stores for 10+ years.



FLASHLIGHTS: They provide a quick, reliable source of light and are available in a wide variety of shapes and sizes. A 2-battery flashlight with new batteries will work for @ 6 hours. For long-term storage: don't store batteries in flashlights. Store extra batteries and bulbs.

Always buy quality.

What to look for in a flashlight (adapted from survivalblog.com)

1. Small and lightweight: They use fewer batteries and can be carried in a pocket.
2. Use a common battery size: Most use: AAA, AA, or D cells. Smaller charge faster.
3. Uses a variety of battery types: alkaline, lithium, or rechargeable batteries
4. Fewer batteries is better: fewer used=fewer to store
5. Simple to operate
6. **Well constructed:** Bulb protected, shock resistant and water resistant/proof, and that won't accidentally turn on while in your pocket or backpack.
7. LED/Cree bulb: Lasts 10,000 hours, shock resistant, brighter
8. Good compromise between output and run time: 8-12+ hrs per battery/charge
9. Quality of light beam: wide beam vs. bright spot. What do you need it for?
10. Lanyard hole/clip: Loop w/cord or ring to attach to you to prevent accidental loss.
11. Caring for your light: Unless using lithium's, don't store batteries in flashlight.

Very important! Periodically check your flash light and batteries to make sure that they will work when you need them. We found out the hard way that the new batteries that we had stored for a year in our 72 Hour kits (not in the flash lights) were low on power.

Stock up on LOTS of batteries if this is your choice for lighting. Stores run out quickly in an emergency.

Humless Tactical Flashlight – LED - powerful 300 lumen flashlight with a **rechargeable** lithium battery. (This heavy duty metal flashlight is one of our family's favorites because of its brightness and we don't have to store batteries.) The flashlight comes with a charger that plugs in to the wall.



Cap Light: Very light weight and fits the bill of a baseball hat easily. The flashlight function works by press a switch once for 3 lights, again for 5, again for flashing, and again for off. Uses 2 lithium batteries and will run for 120+ hours.

Crank flashlight: Light lasts about 30 minutes on 1 min. cranking. Okay light, most have bonus of charging cell phones: 3 minutes winding-eight minutes talk time. (Doesn't fit all phones) Not waterproof or long lasting.

*This was another lesson learned by us. You have to maintain the crank flashlight by cranking it periodically every few months. Read the directions.

Hybrid Lights: Hybrid-LED, Solar, Lithium battery, Water Proof. Flash lights, Spot Light and lanterns. Eight hours of sunlight will provide 6-8 hours of usage. Some models even charge well on cloudy days or under ambient light. (These durable flashlights, spot light and lanterns are another of our family's favorites because there is **no need to store batteries or light bulbs.**)



LED flashlight: Use LED bulbs which last a very long time. They burn brighter than the old style bulbs. They also use very little energy and burn for a very long time.



LED headlamps: Use very little energy and leave your hands free to work. Some headlamps last for up to 200 hours on 3-AAA batteries.

Keep these by the bed and in the top of your Go Bag. These are the best lights to have close by in a fire, earthquake, tornado or any emergency so your hands are free to use.

Rechargeable flashlight/automatic and night light combination. It plugs in the wall and functions as a nightlight, but when the power goes out it is a fully charged flashlight that automatically turns on. It is easy to find and always ready in an emergency.

Shake flashlights: These are magnet flashlights that use an LED for light and never need bulb replacement. Shaking the light charges the capacitor which powers the LED. If they haven't been used for a while you will need to shake them for 2-3 minutes. Even then most give a fairly bright light for 20-30 seconds and then get very dim. They are fairly waterproof. This may not be a reliable flashlight for emergencies. **NOTE: DO NOT place near TV, monitor, floppy disks, hard drives, credit cards or wallet.**

Tripod LED Flashlight: Provides bright, hands-free spotlight. For Hands Free Use, Head Tilts Up & Down 90 Degrees to shine light where you are.

KEROSENE LANTERN - A kerosene lantern with a one-inch wick will burn approximately 45 hours per quart of kerosene. A kerosene lantern uses one fourth as much fuel as a gas lantern. The light is comparable to a 40W-60W light bulb. Kerosene does produce some black smoke when burning. Burning 5 hours each day the following amounts of kerosene would be used: @ 1 quart per week, 3 ½ qts. per month, 10 gallons per year. Kerosene is highly poisonous **KEEP OUT OF THE REACH OF CHILDREN**. Use in an area where it won't get knocked over and that has plenty of ventilation.



LIGHT STICK – A plastic stick about four to six inches in length that come a variety of colors. To activate the stick, you bend it and shake. Depending on the brand, it will provide a bright colored light for 6-12 hours. It is windproof, weatherproof, does not create sparks for flames, and is safe for all ages. It has a shelf life of up to four years. These are the safest form of indoor lighting in case of an earthquake or other situations where flammable gasses may exist. Once you activate these they can't be turned off. You can duct tape light sticks to the wall, or your clothing for hands free lighting.

SOLAR LANTERN– There are a few different solar powered lanterns available. Some may be charged with 24-30 hours bright sunlight, an auto adapter, or a UL listed house adapter. A full charge may supply up to 8 hours on high depending on the model. **Hybrid Lights** has two sizes of lanterns available, a camping lantern and the compact lantern made to fit in a Go Bag.



SOLAR POWERED LIGHTS: They are commonly used along garden walkways. They are relatively inexpensive, are weather resistant and can be brought indoors in the evenings to light up the house. The light from these do not last very long at one time, but are great to light a walk way or for a personal light for a child.

TWO-MANTLE LANTERN - These are available in propane or “Coleman” type fuel. This is a good old camping favorite. The light is adjustable, gives off heat, and needs ventilation. White gasoline or Coleman fuel produces carbon monoxide and should never be used inside. Burn time for 1.26 pints of fuel is approximately 14 hours on low and seven hours on high. Coleman fuel stored in an unopened container in a dry place with a stable temperature has a shelf life of five to seven years. An opened container in the same area should be used within one to two years. Use caution when storing the fuel and using the lantern. **Do not use indoors**. They are also available in a multi-fuel design: unleaded gas, kerosene, or white gas. White gas will only store for a couple of years.



You can place any of your light sources near a mirror, sheet of aluminum foil or a clear jug of water to amplify the light without using extra fuel.

Check out this amazing, ingenious video.

How Plastic Bottles Can Lighten Up The Darkness.

<http://www.wimp.com/lightenup/>

The Humless Tactical Flashlight and Hybrid Solar Flash Lights, Spotlight and Lanterns with Lithium Battery backup can be purchased at discount pricing through PreparedNest. Contact Cheryl and Greg at hello@PreparedNest.com for more information.

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