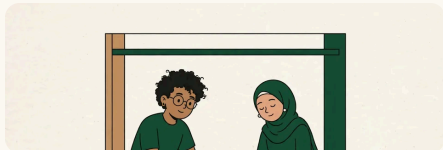




The home kit, in buying order.

Twelve purchases from first to last, so the first twenty-five dollars does the most good.

1. Water: two cases



- About ten dollars for two cases of bottles
- Three days for two people, the start for four
- The one thing with no substitute

2. Flashlights, one per person



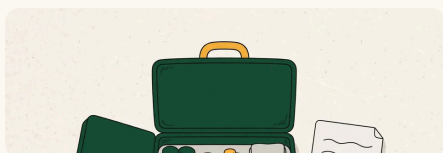
- Cheap LED lights, a few dollars each, batteries in
- A spare pack of batteries in a zip bag
- By the beds, not in a drawer

3. No-cook food for three days



- Bars, nut butter, crackers, canned fruit and beans, cereal
- Buy what you already eat, one extra each trip
- A manual can opener, a few dollars

4. A first aid kit



- Ten to fifteen dollars for a basic kit
- Add pain reliever, an antihistamine, any family medication
- Seven days of prescriptions written down

5. First tier done, about \$40



- Light, water, food, first aid: stop here and you are ready for a night
- Most households own half of this already
- Everything below makes a bad week easier

6. A battery or crank radio



- Fifteen to thirty dollars; the NOAA weather band matters
- News when the towers are overloaded
- Charge it twice a year

7. Power banks



- One per phone, fifteen to twenty-five dollars each
- Charged, in the kit, swapped into use every few months
- Cheaper than any other backup power

8. Hygiene and sanitation



- Wipes, sanitizer, soap, toilet paper, heavy trash bags
- A bucket with a lid; it is the toilet if water is off
- Mostly things you already buy

9. A lantern for the room



- Twenty to thirty dollars for a rechargeable LED lantern
- Lights the whole room everyone ends up in
- Some double as a phone bank

10. Second tier done, about \$120



- Light, water, food, first aid, news, phones, sanitation
- This is the whole 72-hour kit; the rest is comfort and days
- Add the document folder, which costs nothing

9. Water containers



- Two stackable seven-gallon jugs, twenty to thirty dollars each
- Fill from the tap, rotate twice a year
- Replaces buying bottled water forever

10. A portable power station



- The big purchase, usually a few hundred dollars
- Runs lights, phones, a router, a CPAP overnight
- Buy it before a generator, and only after everything above

The first four this week. One a payday after that. Done before the clocks change.

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