



# Portable emergency battery backup power

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It's roughly the same size and weight as a toaster oven, and it provides a steady stream of power without the noise or exhaust of a gas-powered portable generator.

After researching and testing dozens of portable power stations over the past seven years, we found that the River 2 Pro easily stands out from the competition. It offers lots of power for its size and price, and it has a wide array of outlets and charging ports, an easy-to-use interface, and a relatively rugged exterior.

The EcoFlow River 2 Pro is light enough for the average adult to lift and carry safely, yet in our tests it managed to run even the most power-hungry appliances. Offering lots of output and capacity for its size, it's suitable for keeping most devices, such as a laptop or a CPAP machine, running all day or all night long.

It has four AC outlets, a USB-C port, and three USB-A ports, so you can charge a variety of gadgets from laptops to cameras to GPS units. It also comes with cables to recharge itself from a wall outlet, car power socket, or solar panel, and it's backed by a five-year warranty.

It barely falls within our maximum weight limit, and its two-year warranty is shorter than that of our top pick. But with more capacity than our other picks, it can keep your gear running even longer on a camping trip or during a power outage, and with its higher output you can plug in more power-hungry appliances.

Though it weighs just 7.1 pounds, the Jackery Explorer 300 shares many of the same features we prize in our larger, more powerful picks. We like to bring this compact model to a beach, park, or campsite to inflate an air mattress, run a fan, or charge a phone, camera, portable speaker, lantern, or headlamp.

It has two AC outlets, one USB-C port, and two USB-A ports--fewer than our other picks, but still more than most models under 10 pounds that we tried. You lose some of the power and capacity you get with our larger picks--you shouldn't expect to run an air conditioner or charge multiple laptops with it--but you save on space and money.

I've been a science journalist for more than a decade, covering a wide variety of topics from particle physics to satellite remote sensing. Since joining Wirecutter in 2017, I've reported on surge protectors, rechargeable batteries, power banks, wireless chargers, and more.

Portable power stations are large batteries in protective boxes, with AC outlets and other charging ports built in. They're generally much bigger, heavier, more powerful, and more rugged than power banks and portable laptop chargers, which gives them more versatility for activities like camping, tailgating, working in a remote corner of your home, screening a movie in your backyard, or staging a scenic photoshoot.



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Given their bulk and weight (some are as heavy as a kindergartner), you probably won't be carrying one of these around in a backpack. But you can charge it overnight on a wall outlet, pack it into a trunk with the rest of your gear, and bring it with you--keeping your phone, laptop, camera, projector, GPS unit, breast pump, drone, or other electronic device powered for hours, or even days, at a time.

In an emergency, these power stations offer some major advantages over gas-powered portable generators, despite being less powerful. Portable power stations are silent and don't produce additional emissions, so you can use them safely indoors and while you're sleeping. And since they have no motor, you don't need to keep gas handy or perform the oil changes and other minor maintenance that a combustion engine requires.

Battery-powered generators we've tested have similar trade-offs. While handy for projects requiring heavy-duty power tools, they tend to be bigger and heavier (and often have a lower capacity) than the top contenders in this guide.

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Web: <https://www.hollanddutchtours.nl/contact-us/>

Email: [energystorage2000@gmail.com](mailto:energystorage2000@gmail.com)

WhatsApp: 8613816583346

