Solar battery generator

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Having written thousands of product reviews and how-to articles on all aspects of home ownership, from routine maintenance to major renovations, Dan (he/him) brings more than 20 years of industry experience to his role as the director of the Home Improvement & Outdoor Lab at the Good Housekeeping Institute. A one-time roofer and a serial remodeler, Dan can often be found keeping house at his restored Brooklyn brownstone, where he lives with his wife and kids.

That"s why we recommend the Solix F3800: It pairs with Anker"s Home Power Panel, which is sold separately for around $1,300. The panel allows homeowners to program specific circuits -- like those for the fridge and HVAC -- to automatically power up during an outage, similar to a standby generator that runs on propane or natural gas.

This portable power station has a 3.84 kWh battery capacity, which is enough to run multiple major appliances and electronics. It uses lithium iron phosphate (LiFePO4) batteries, a newer technology with a long lifespan that provides fast charging. Up to seven LiFePO4 batteries can be added to expand the capacity to 53.76 kWh, providing whole-house backup power.

One of our testers in Houston, where weather-induced outages are common, installed this system with the help of a professional electrician in one day, then successfully simulated an outage by cutting the home"s power. The system "worked beautifully," he reported. "The interruption was so short that not even the TV went off in the process. The AC was running, and the refrigerators were all humming."

With a 1,800-watt capacity, the Anker 757 is best-suited for moderate energy needs, such as keeping essential electronics running during a temporary blackout rather than powering multiple major appliances. "It came in handy at an outdoor party," said one tester. "The DJ was used to running extension cords to the nearest outlet and this generator kept him going for the entire night."

The Anker offers a solid set of features, including six AC ports (more than most models in its size category), four USB-A ports and two USB-C ports. It"s also one of the fastest charging generators we tested -- its LiFePO4 battery can reach an 80% charge in less than an hour when plugged into a wall outlet. That"s helpful in cases where a storm is coming in fast but you haven"t used the generator in a while and it"s low on juice, or out of it completely.

As for solar charging, the Anker 757 supports up to 300 watts of input, putting it in the middle range compared to similarly-sized solar-capable generators on the market.

If you"re looking for an ultra-compact solar power generator, we recommend Bluetti"s Portable Power Station EB3A. With a 269-watt capacity, it won"t power your entire house, but it can keep essential devices like

phones and computers running for a few hours during an emergency.

Weighing just 10 pounds, this generator is roughly the size of an old-fashioned box radio, making it ideal for road trips. Thanks to its smaller capacity and LiFePO4 battery, it charges incredibly fast. Whether using a wall outlet or the 200-watt solar panel (sold separately), the EB3A can fully recharge in under two hours.

This portable power station features two AC ports, two USB-A ports, one USB-C port and a wireless charging pad for your phone. Its 2,500-cycle life span makes it one of the most durable solar chargers we tested. Additionally, it includes an LED light with a strobe setting, which is a useful safety feature if you find yourself needing emergency assistance, such as during a roadside breakdown.

The Delta Pro Ultra consists of a battery and an inverter, which converts low voltage, DC battery power into the 240-volt AC electricity needed to power things like ovens and central ACs. The system boasts a total output of 7,200 watts, making it the most powerful source of backup battery power in our tests -- which is why it"s our top pick for homes in hurricane country.

Like the Anker Solix F3800 system, the Delta Pro Ultra is scalable, reaching up to 90,000 watts with the addition of 15 batteries -- enough to power the average American home for an entire month. However, to achieve that maximum output you"d be looking at an all-in cost of around $50,000 for the batteries, as well as the smart home panel required for automatic backup power (and that doesn"t include installation costs, or the electricity costs to keep the batteries fully charged).

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