

# The valve that buys you the first day

## From Volume II — The Outage Nobody Plans For • Check 11

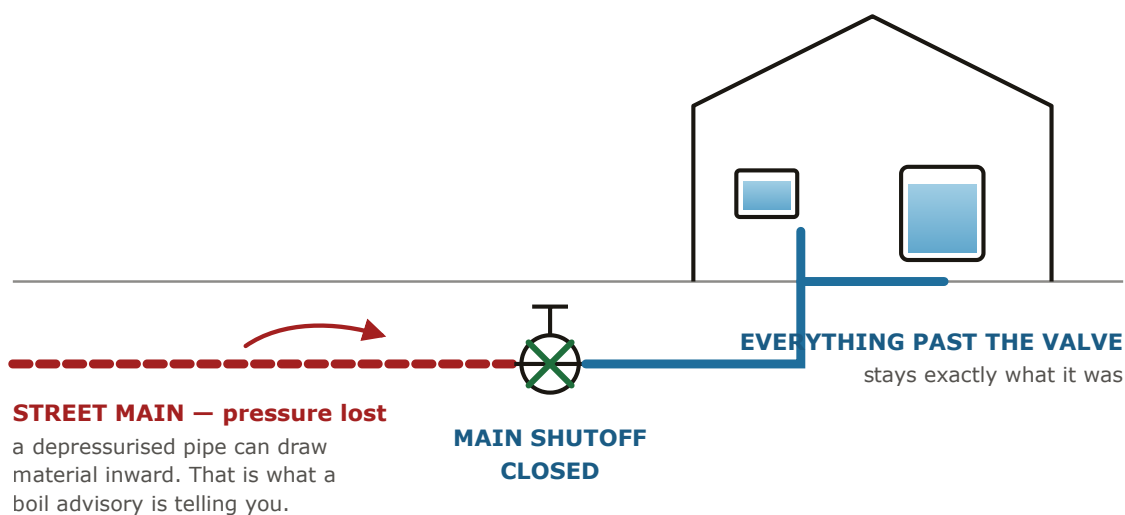
Find your home's main water shutoff valve, and turn it once, so you know that you can.

Most people believe a boil-water notice means something got into the reservoir. Usually it means the system lost **pressure** — and a depressurized pipe can draw material inward at any point where it is compromised. That is why the utility issues the advisory: not because they know something got in, but because they can no longer promise nothing did.

Which means the clean water already standing in your own pipes, and in your water heater, stays clean only if you close the door on it early. Shutting your own main takes your house out of the system. What is inside stays what it was.

It costs nothing, it takes seconds on the day, and it buys you the entire first day of an interruption. Most households do not know where that door is.

### CLOSE IT EARLY AND YOU KEEP WHAT YOU ALREADY HAVE



**The valve is the door.** While the street main holds pressure, that pressure is what keeps everything else out. When it drops, the protection drops with it.

**Where to find it, how to turn it, and what to do if it is seized** — plus **the honest limit**, what this will not do for you — are in Volume II, check 11.

Every one of the 195 checks is written the same way: the claim, the part nobody mentions, what to go and do, and what it will not do. This page is the first half of one of them.

# The five places energy disappears

From Volume III — The Math They Skip • Module Two • collection only

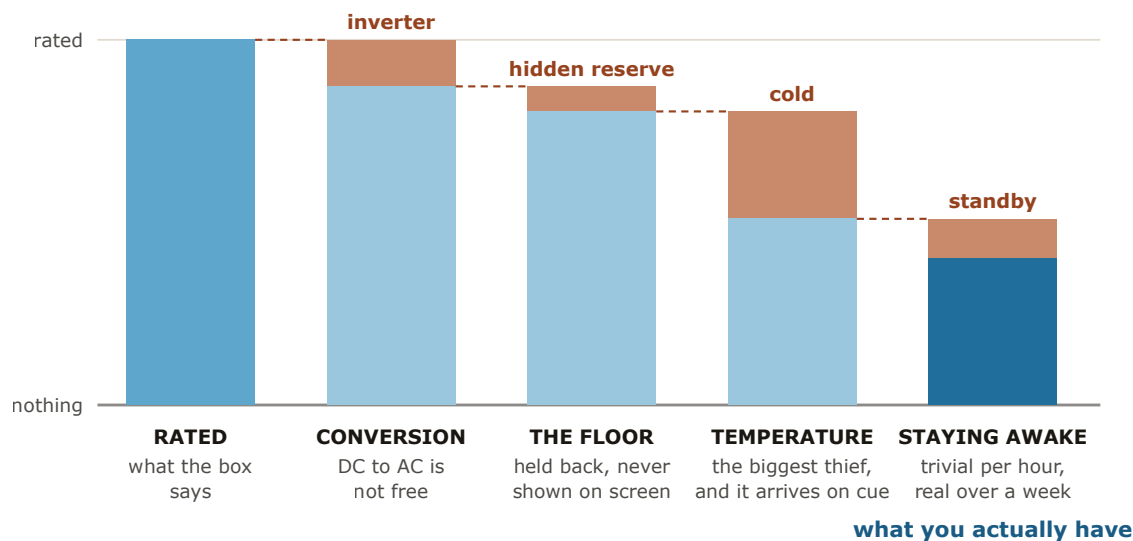
The watt-hour figure on the front of your power station is real. It is also measured in a laboratory, at a comfortable temperature, with a slow steady draw and nothing spiking.

Your freezer is not that. A compressor sits idle, slams the inverter for a fraction of a second, goes quiet, and repeats — all day and all night, possibly in an unheated garage in February.

Between the cells and the appliance, energy disappears in five separate places. Every one is ordinary, predictable engineering, not one appears on the front of the box, and stacked together they come to close to half the battery — **before the compressor has spiked even once**. That is why people do the arithmetic on a kitchen table, buy a unit that should carry them well past a full day, and get nine hours.

## WHAT REACHES THE FREEZER

Each deduction is easy to wave away on its own. That is why they get waved away, one at a time.



And all of it before the compressor has spiked once. Nothing here involves a faulty unit.

**Each deduction is easy to wave away on its own.** That is exactly why they get waved away, one at a time, and why the total surprises people.

**What each of the five losses actually is, how large, and the planning rule that absorbs them — so a battery does not lie to you at hour nine — are in Volume III.**

Volume III is not sold separately. It is the arithmetic underneath the other two volumes, and it only comes with the collection.

# What actually failed

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**Three volumes · three printables · 195 numbered checks · 183 pages**

I have been prepping since 2009. Four extended outages, the longest of them nine days. After every one I sit down and write out what actually failed, instead of what I planned for on paper. These came out of those notebooks.

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## Volume I — Save the Food, Not the Refrigerator

*72 checks · 66 pages*

Why the freezer you already own is the wrong shape, and what to do about it. The box, thermal mass, the blanket and the order it goes on in, topping it back up from a battery, running a freezer as a refrigerator, what actually goes inside — and the generator question, including the one instruction in the collection that is not negotiable.

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## Volume II — The Outage Nobody Plans For

*71 checks · 63 pages*

The week where the food is fine and everything else is the emergency. Water, light, information and fuel. The water already in your house that nobody counts. A filter that runs on gravity and a container that refills itself. Why shortages arrive in an afternoon. And the cheap fixes ranked honestly — including the ones I say are barely worth doing.

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## Volume III — The Math They Skip

*52 checks · 46 pages · **collection only***

The arithmetic nobody prints on the packaging. Where the five losses go, how to size a system so it does not surprise you, how to judge a unit before you buy it, and how to measure your own appliances instead of trusting a nameplate. This is the volume that makes the other two work — both of them tell you to size something, and this is where the sizing lives.

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## The Three Cards

*collection only*

**The Hour One Card** — the first ten moves when the power drops, on one sheet, written so somebody who has never read these books can follow it. It tapes inside a cabinet door. **The Load Sheet** — for measuring your own appliances. **The Rotation Calendar** — four ticks a year.

**There are no prices in any of the books.** Prices go stale within a year and these are meant to still be right in five. What is there instead is the shape of the decision — which of two things to buy, which specification actually matters, and what the box will not tell you.

**Seventeen diagrams.** Every one of the 195 checks carries the honest limit: what it will not do.

*This is general preparedness information from one man's experience. It is not legal, medical, or electrical advice. Where a question varies by where you live, the books name who to ask.*

**Buy proven, not hyped. I'll see you out there. — Ralph Harmon**