

Dear Aunt Winnie,

I have neighbors that went without power for a period of time before they were able to get help. Water was a huge concern and they would come over to my house daily and fill up containers. It got me wondering how Americans could survive if electricity was disrupted due to a war or natural disaster.

Sincerely,
Wondering

Disclaimer-The opinions expressed by Aunt Winnie are by no means professional nor do they reflect Aging Services, Inc. beliefs or ideas. Her opinions are strictly for reader enjoyment only!



Dear Wondering,

It's hard to believe that electricity has only been around for 150 years. Did you know that in 1925 only half of American homes had electricity?

I can tell you right now, as much as I enjoyed the "Little House on the Prairie" show and it's cast (well mainly Michael Landon), oh la la...now that man radiated some serious electrifying vibes! Oh wait, I have already gotten off track! What I am trying to say is, I am thankful I have only had to watch TV programs that depict what life was like without power, instead of actually living it.



I can remember visiting my granny when I was little, and she had an old-fashioned hand water pump in her yard. My siblings and I would play with it until she'd catch us, and boy, would she have a conniption. How dare we waste water! She would chase us around with her rug beater, all the while muttering about what a bunch of hoodlums we were! Don't worry there was never any physical abuse. She never caught us.

Oh dear, I am off target again! Now a days those old water pumps are few and far between and it's scary to think how much we rely on electricity for our water.

Believe it or not you are not the only one who has asked whether we would be able to survive without electricity. The overall consensus by experts is that if we were to lose power for an extended period of time, America would quickly descend into a chaotic mess. So next time I hear someone saying, "What's the world coming to with all this new-fangled technology?", I might have to admit they have a point. Have we set ourselves up to fail by trying to make things easy through modernization?

It is agreed that the first and foremost danger would be our inability to access clean water. It seems inconceivable that even though water might be everywhere, the majority of people can't access clean drinking water without electricity. As for now, we can only hope that fate is kind to us and a massive prolonged power outage is not to be in our lifetime, but we do know that there will always be times that power is disrupted due to unforeseeable circumstances and emergency situations. When it does happen, you want to be prepared. That is why it is so important to keep an adequate supply of water stored at your place of residence. Take into consideration the size of your family and your pets. Ready.gov suggests that one gallon per person a day is the rule of thumb for storing emergency water. It is advised that you always use storage water that is sealed and unopened for drinking. Reusing containers for potable water can be a health concern.

If only my granny could see how modern technology magically made water flow through our taps with a mere twist of a knob, she might roll over in her grave with wonder. Now on the other hand, I am sure she would have a full-blown conniption if she knew people actually bought water at the grocery store!

Sincerely,
Aunt Winnie



Water-Living on only 1 percent!



Living in Pennsylvania, it is hard to imagine that drinking water is not as abundant as what we might think. Did you know that according to the EPA, only 1 percent of the earth's water is available for human use? You might wonder how that can be, but the math does work out, considering that 97 percent of the earth's water is saltwater. The few other remaining percent is water that is inaccessible to humans.

The percentage of available water might be constant, but as the world's population increases, so does our need for water. Water availability can also shift with weather patterns and will not always be abundant in places where it was before. Understanding how precious drinking water is makes us rethink on why it is so important to protect it!