



BLACKOUT BUDDY™

USER MANUAL



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**Please read ALL instructions and information, including
Cautions and Warnings, in this user manual BEFORE
setting up and using the Blackout Buddy.**

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SYMBOLS & TERMS

IMPORTANT SYMBOLS

The following symbols are used in this guide:

 **WARNING** Warnings are conditions and practices that could result in personal injury.

 **CAUTION** Cautions are conditions and practices that could result in damage to the unit or other equipment.

IMPORTANT TERMS

The following terms are helpful for you to know and are used in this guide:

Term	Definition
A	Ampere or Amp
Ah	Amp-hour
AC	Alternating Current
DC	Direct Current
LED	Light Emitting Diode
LCD	Liquid-crystal display
mA	Milliampere; 1/1000th of an ampere
V	Volts
W	Watts
Wh	Watt-hour

ABOUT THE BLACKOUT BUDDY

There are many reasons why people are concerned about power outages. Including heating or cooling suddenly not working, computers and phones unable to charge, and televisions and stereos unable to function.

But the reason we hear about most from our customers is the danger of refrigerated and frozen food being spoiled. Seeing a food supply you've paid good money for go bad is an awful feeling. That's why we designed and built the Blackout Buddy. Its main function is to keep your fridge running with uninterrupted power during an outage. It's very quiet, fume-free, and designed to be used indoors.

But the Blackout Buddy is not a one-trick pony. It's versatile. It can also be used to power up other appliances and devices, should a power outage occur. Following are just a few of the qualities that set the Blackout Buddy apart from some of its competitors:

SAFE TO USE

Featuring a Lithium Iron Phosphate battery, the Blackout Buddy produces no emissions – none.

INSTANTANEOUS BACKUP

No need to panic when an outage occurs. Your Blackout Buddy should already be connected to your fridge or other appliance or device. Leave it plugged in and it will provide backup power in the blink of an eye. No power interruptions – even if you're not home when the outage occurs.

COMPACT & COMPATIBLE

Less than 2.5 inches wide, your Blackout Buddy will fit into the smallest of gaps between a fridge and a wall. It can stand up, lay flat, or even be hung on the underside of a table or bed. But if you choose to keep it in sight, its stainless steel cover is designed to blend in with common kitchen appliances.

CONVENIENT PORT PLACEMENT

Your Blackout Buddy's first AC port is situated with a fridge in mind, but there's also an accessible port near the solar port on the top of the unit. If your unit is on top of or next to your fridge, this places the solar and second port where you can easily plug in a lamp or other electrical items without having to slide the fridge out.

LCD SCREEN

Keeps you informed. When the power goes out, the unit chirps to let you know it's working. The screen will automatically switch to a full-service status display, showing real-time power usage, estimated run time, and incoming solar input (if connected).

IMPORTANT SAFETY INFORMATION

INSTRUCTIONS PERTAINING TO RISK OF FIRE, ELECTRIC SHOCK, OR INJURY TO PERSONS.

The Blackout Buddy features safe, quiet, electric power. This unit is designed to provide instantaneous power when blackouts occur. As a reminder, **PLEASE READ THIS ENTIRE MANUAL BEFORE ATTEMPTING TO USE THIS PRODUCT.** For your safety, carefully follow all instructions and warnings in this manual. Failure to do so could result in injury.

WARNING:

- **Avoid dangerous environments.** Do not charge or use this unit in rain, snow, or damp conditions. Do not use this unit in areas with explosive atmospheres (such as gaseous fumes, dust, or flammable materials) as sparks may occur during charging or discharging, potentially causing a fire.
- **Supervise use around children.** Close supervision is required when this unit is used near children.
- **Keep hands clear.** Do not place fingers or hands inside the unit.
- **Use only approved accessories.** Attachments not recommended or sold by 4Patriots may cause fire, electric shock, or injury.
- **Disconnect properly.** When unplugging, pull on the plug rather than the cord to avoid damage.
- **Do not use damaged or modified batteries.** Such batteries may behave unpredictably, leading to fire, explosion, or injury.
- **Charge safely.** Charge only in a well-ventilated area with temperature between 32°F and 104°F (0°C to 40°C). Keep at least 6 inches of clearance around the vents. Do not smoke or use open flames near a charging battery while charging. Use caution outdoors, as the surface of the unit may become very hot. Handle with care.
- **Keep away from heat and fire.** Do not expose to high temperatures. Exposure to temperatures above 266°F (130°C) may cause explosion and release toxic fumes.
- **Prevent physical damage.** Do not crush, drop, pierce, or otherwise damage the unit. Do not use if the unit has been dropped, hit, punctured, run over, or subjected to sharp impact.
- **Inspect cords and connections.** Before connecting to the unit, check all cords and plugs. Do not use with damaged cables, plugs, or output connections.
- **Reduce electric shock risk.** Unplug from the outlet and wait at least 2 minutes before attempting any instructed cleaning.

- **Do not disassemble.** There are no user serviceable parts. Repairs must be performed by a 4Patriots technician. Opening the unit voids the warranty and increases the risk of electric shock, fire, and chemical exposure.
- **Avoid contact with battery chemicals.** Never tamper with, puncture, ignite, or short-circuit battery cells. Damaged cells may vent smoke. Should this occur, do not inhale. Contact 4Patriots immediately for disposal or return instructions.
- **Prevent short-circuits.** Keep metal objects (such as coins, keys, or nails) away from AC or DC output ports. Short circuiting can cause fire or injury.
- **Never charge or jump-start a frozen battery.**
- **Store properly.** Keep in a cool, dry place. Do not store for more than 10 days in environments above 120°F (49°C), such as direct sunlight, vehicles, or metal buildings during the summer.
- **Intended use.** This unit is intended for personal, non-commercial use only.
- **Power capacity.** This unit can power all AC, DC, and USB outlets simultaneously, provided the maximum power limits (see page 19) are not exceeded.
- **Charging connections.** Use ONLY the provided cable to connect directly to a wall outlet. Do not use extension cords, power strips, or outlet extenders.

SAVE THESE INSTRUCTIONS FOR FUTURE REFERENCE.

GROUNDING INSTRUCTIONS

This product must be grounded when charging. If it should malfunction or break down, grounding provides the path of least resistance for the electric current to reduce the risk of electric shock. This product is equipped with a cord that has an equipment grounding conductor and a grounding plug. The plug must be plugged into an outlet that is properly installed and grounded in accordance with all local codes and ordinances.

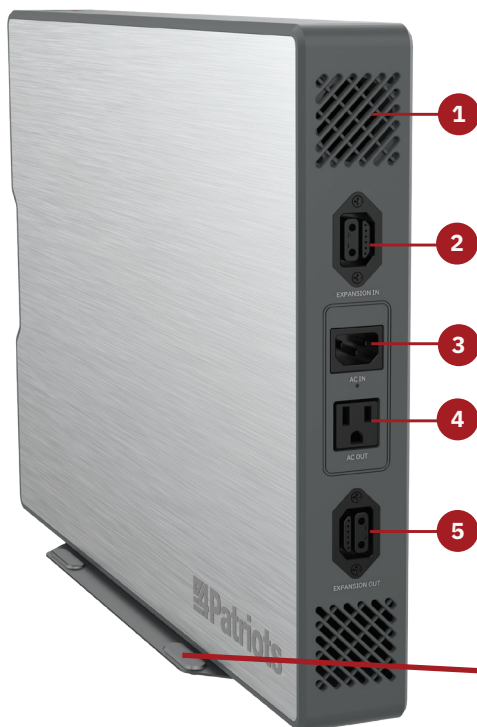
WARNING:

Improper connection of the equipment grounding conductor could result in a risk of electric shock. Check with a qualified electrician if you are in doubt as to whether the product is properly grounded. Do not modify the plug provided with the product – if it will not fit the outlet, have a proper outlet installed by a qualified electrician.

PARTS IDENTIFICATION

- 1. VENT**
- 2. EXPANSION INPUT**
- 3. AC INPUT**
- 4. AC OUTLET**
- 5. EXPANSION OUTLET**
- 6. REMOTE SCREEN PORT**
- 7. SOLAR INPUT**
- 8. AC OUTLET**
- 9. LED INDICATOR BUTTON**
- 10. LED INDICATOR**
- 11. MOUNTING PLATE**
- 12. REMOTE SCREEN**
- 13. USB-C CABLE**
- 14. EXPANSION CABLE**
- 15. AC CHARGING CABLE**
- 16. FOOT PLATE**

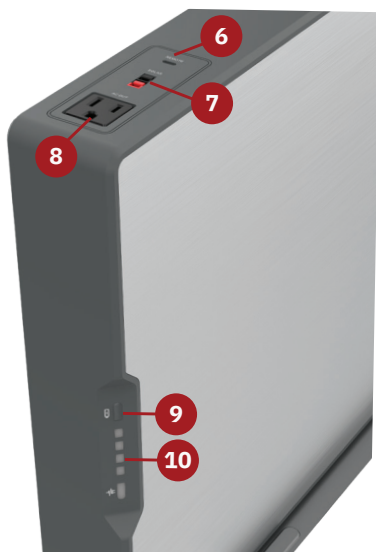
RIGHT SIDE



ACCESSORIES



TOP / LEFT SIDE



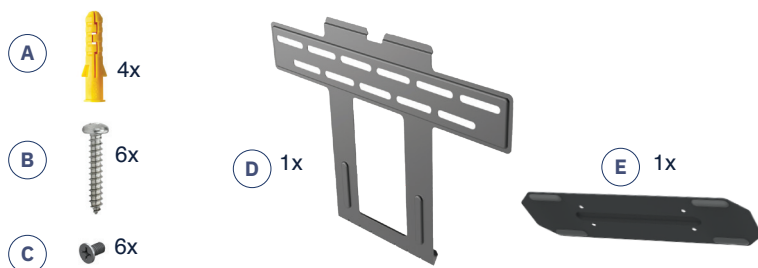
BACK



STEP 1: INSTALLATION INSTRUCTIONS

Your Blackout Buddy can be installed in different locations and positions, including lying flat, mounted to a wall, or standing upright.

Parts Included:



MOUNTING THE UNIT TO THE WALL

*Note: Tools required below to complete this installation are **not** included.*

- Drill
- Level
- Drill Bits (1/8" and 1/4")
- Stud Finder
- Hammer

If you choose to mount the unit to the wall (e.g. behind your fridge), you can utilize the enclosed **Mounting Plate (labeled D)** designed for this exact purpose. First, use a stud finder to locate the stud or studs in the wall and clearly mark them with a pencil. Determine where the mounting plate (D) will hang on the wall. The wide portion of the mounting plate is wide enough to span two studs (see image 1). If your placement doesn't allow for two studs, mark a stud in the center and two places in the drywall matching the outermost holes in the mounting plate (see image 2).

Use a level to mark where you intend to drill the pilot holes for the screws, ensuring the holes will be even. Use the mounting plate (D) to check that your holes will match the openings in the plate. The two tabs should be at the top and the foot at the bottom, with the beveled-out center pocket flush against the wall (see image 3).

If you are mounting the unit onto a kitchen cabinet or other furniture, ensure that the surface of the cabinet is thick enough for the mounting screws, and that any furniture is heavy enough to support the weight of the Blackout Buddy without tipping.

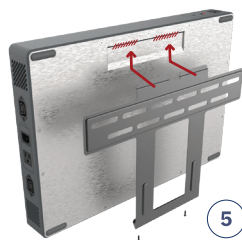


Drill pilot holes at each of your marks, using a 1/8" drill bit for studs and a 1/4" drill bit for drywall anchors. If your placement includes only one stud, you will need at least three holes -- one in the stud and one each at the widest ends of the Mounting Plate (D) into the drywall. For the holes without a stud, use a hammer to pound the included **Drywall Anchors (labeled A)** into the wall. Position the mounting plate over the holes and employ the included **Wall Screws (labeled B)** to fasten the mounting plate to the wall (see image 4).



Note: Screwing in each screw only partway (about 75% down) helps to make small adjustments to the wall bracket until all screws are in the wall. Once you are satisfied with the wall bracket position, finish tightening all screws.

Once the plate is secure against the wall, lift your Blackout Buddy and match the two slits on the back with the two tabs on the top of the mounting plate, and carefully slide it down onto the plate (see image 5). Ensure the Blackout Buddy is sitting on top of the hook on the bottom of the mounting plate (see image 6), then secure the unit to the bottom hook on the mount with the enclosed **Plate Bolts (labeled C)**. Now move on to Step 2 on the next page.



Note: It is also possible to secure the mount to the underside of a table, bed, or cabinet. Please follow the above instructions, ensuring at least two screws are used to bite into the wood of the mounting surface. Then add one additional screw through the hole near the bottom hook on the mount (see image 6).

STANDING THE UNIT UPRIGHT USING THE FOOT PLATE

WARNING

Using the foot plate does not guarantee the unit will not tip over. Ensure the unit is placed on a hard, flat surface in a location protected from water, bumping, or jostling (see warning on next page).

Attach the **Foot Plate (labeled E)** to the bottom of the unit using 4 of the provided Plate Bolts (C) (see image 7) and move on to Step 2.



STANDING THE UNIT UPRIGHT WITHOUT THE FOOT PLATE

Some users may want to place their Blackout Buddy upright without the included foot plate, fitting it in a narrow gap alongside their appliance (e.g. between a refrigerator and a cabinet). Please ensure when doing so that the Blackout Buddy is supported on both sides so it won't tip over. If moving the appliance or other supports from the Blackout Buddy, carefully remove the Blackout Buddy first to avoid tipping.

Note: The unit is not waterproof. Please refer to the warning at the end of this section.

LAYING THE UNIT FLAT

No installation is necessary. Lay the unit on the built-in feet on the back of the product and move on to Step 2, noting the warning below:

WARNING

Select a location for your Blackout Buddy that is sheltered from any potential water sources. It is not recommended to place it on the floor near your refrigerator, due to the possibility of spills or water leaking from the fridge. But if you choose that location, place it on top of a block of wood or other secure item to protect it.

STEP 2: OPERATING INSTRUCTIONS

The Blackout Buddy works like a surge protector/power strip with a battery included. It's designed to be plugged in at all times and when it is, your devices receive grid power just like they do now. But when the grid goes down, they will instantly switch to run on your Blackout Buddy's battery until the grid comes back on. At this point, your Blackout Buddy will automatically recharge itself in preparation for the next power outage.

CHARGING THE POWER UNIT FROM A WALL PLUG

1. Connect one end of the included charging cable to the AC input port on the right side of the unit and the other end to a wall outlet. The LED light near the AC input will light up.
2. On the remote LCD display (if connected), you will see the charging status and current power. Once it reads 100%, you'll know your unit is fully charged.

WARNING

You can connect the unit directly to the wall outlet with the provided cable to charge. Do not use an extension cord, power strip, surge protector, or smart outlet to charge the unit. Never use a damaged or frayed AC cord; electrical shock can occur.

POWER DEVICES WITH YOUR BLACKOUT BUDDY

The Blackout Buddy can power many types of devices, such as refrigerators, freezers, computers, medical equipment, CPAP machines, Wifi, etc. The total number of devices the power unit can support depends on the energy consumption of each device. Energy consumption is measured in watts (W). The unit can supply electric power to multiple devices that require a total of 600W of energy or less.

To power an appliance using the Blackout Buddy:

1. Connect the appliance to one of the AC outputs located on the right side or top of the Blackout Buddy.
2. Your appliance will immediately receive power from the grid (if your Blackout Buddy is plugged into your wall outlet) or the Blackout Buddy's battery (if the battery is charged) or via a 4Patriots solar panel.

Provided that your device does not need more than 600W, the Blackout Buddy works just like the outlets in your home.

Note: It is always a good idea to check your appliance to confirm it is receiving power. Never use a damaged or frayed AC cord; electrical shock can occur.

CHARGING THE POWER UNIT FROM A PORTABLE SOLAR PANEL

The Blackout Buddy is designed to only work with the 4Patriots 100W and 200W panels. With a 500W solar capacity, it's capable of keeping your devices running even through lengthy interruptions to the power grid.

Solar panels work best when they are pointed at direct sunlight, which may require shifting their position periodically to gain maximum efficiency. Shaded areas on a solar panel or an indirect angle to the sun will greatly limit that efficiency, as will indirect lighting through a window

To connect a panel to the Blackout Buddy:

1. Open the portable solar panel and place it in direct sunlight.
2. Connect the output cable from the solar panel to the matching solar input port on the top of the unit.

Note 1: To use the solar input port, match red to red and black to black.

Note 2: We recommend using the 4Patriots 25-foot solar extension cable to the Blackout Buddy without requiring the unit to be moved outside.



3. On the remote LCD display (if connected), you can see the charging status and current power. Once it reads 100%, you'll know your unit is fully charged. To fully charge the Blackout Buddy using one 200W solar panel, you can expect to need 6-7 hours (or more, depending on the amount of direct sunlight).

WARNING

Never use a damaged or frayed solar cable; electrical shock can occur.

CHARGING WITH MULTIPLE SOLAR PANELS

WARNING

Only connect solar panels together that have the same voltage. The 4Patriots 100W panel (18V) and 200W panel (36V) cannot be connected together.

1. Connect the long cable from the first solar panel to the Blackout Buddy.
2. Connect the long cable from the second solar panel to the short cable on the first solar panel.
3. Continue for additional panels.

WARNING

No more than 4 panels should be connected together in full sunlight.

MONITORING YOUR UNIT

USING THE BUILT-IN LEDS

The built-in LED display on the Blackout Buddy is designed to help the unit subtly and seamlessly fit into any home design. There is one LED on the right side of the unit and five on the front.

The LED on the right side of the unit, near the input port, shows when the Blackout Buddy is receiving power. Use this LED to check that the Blackout Buddy has been correctly connected to your wall outlet.

The LED series on the front of the unit allows you to quickly check the status of the unit by pressing the battery button near the LEDs. The four blue LEDs next to the button show the current battery status, reading 25%, 50%, 75%, and 100% full, left to right. The final red light on the right of the line indicates whether you are experiencing a power outage, and will light whenever the Blackout Buddy is no longer receiving power. This light will remain on until the power comes back on.

Whenever the Blackout Buddy is no longer receiving power, it will beep once to let you know the outage has started.

If the Blackout Buddy ever has an error (overloaded, too hot/cold, etc.), the unit will beep three times to let you know it has encountered a problem and may require attention. The unit will shut off power. If left connected to the appliance, the Blackout Buddy will reset after a moment. If the issue remains, the unit will continue to beep and reset itself until the situation is resolved.

See pages 22-24 for answers to frequently asked questions.

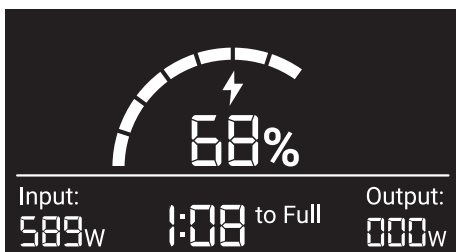
USING THE REMOTE SCREEN

Each Blackout Buddy comes equipped with an optional remote screen for users looking for more detailed information about their product. The magnetic screen is perfect for mounting to the front of the fridge for easy access. Connect the remote screen using the included USB-C cable. (Note: the USB-C port on the Blackout Buddy is exclusive for the screen and cannot be used to power phones or other USB-C compatible devices.)



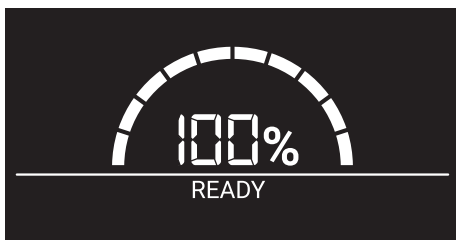
The button below the screen can be used to toggle the screen on and off. The information on the screen will change based on the current state of the battery:

If your unit is charging...



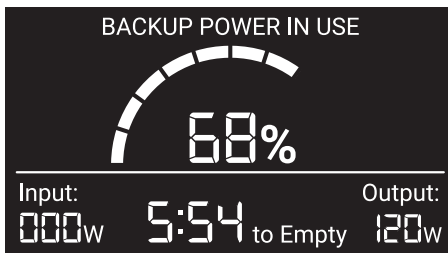
- Lightning icon shown any time battery is being charged
- Current % full indicator for the battery
- Time to full shown while receiving AC power and charging

If your unit is charged...



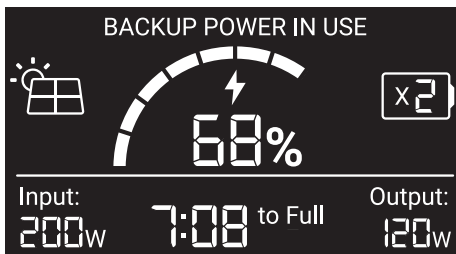
- Battery bar full
- “Ready” shows that battery has completed charging and is ready for the next power outage
- Number of additional Blackout Buddy units used as expansion batteries (this will be blank if no expansions are used)

If your unit loses wall power...



- “Backup Power in Use” shown when unit is not receiving AC power
- Input and Output wattage shown during backup power while power is being drawn
- “Time to empty” indicates estimated time until battery runs out

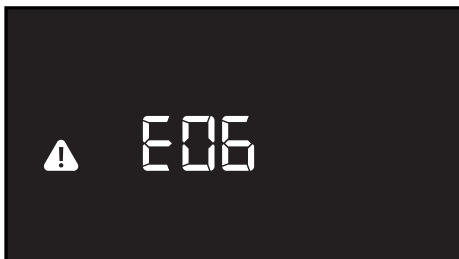
If your unit is receiving solar power...



- Solar icon visible when solar input is detected
- Input watts shows incoming solar power
- Time to full/empty adjusts to account for difference in power

Note: If incoming power is greater than outgoing power, your unit may run indefinitely.

If your screen shows an error code...

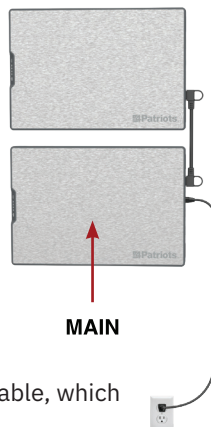


- Error Codes (See page 21 for the full list of error codes)

DOUBLE YOUR POWER CAPACITY

The best way to extend the runtime of your Blackout Buddy is to add a second Blackout Buddy unit to your arsenal.

1. Make sure both units are unplugged from the wall and hold the On/Off button until the unit turns off (about 10 seconds). *Note: They will not turn off if plugged in. The Blackout Buddy is designed to activate automatically if plugged into the wall.*
2. Connect the expansion cable from the "Expansion Input" port on one unit to "Expansion Output" on the other unit. It does not matter which unit is the input and which is the output. Never connect Input-Input or Output-Output.
3. Choose one unit to be your "Main" unit. Connect the Main unit to the wall outlet using the included charging cable, which will reactivate both units.
4. Connect your appliance to one of the AC outputs on the Main unit. This will deactivate the AC outputs on the other units for as long as the units are connected.
5. Connect the LCD screen (if desired) to the USB-C port on the Main unit. You only need one LCD screen to monitor the whole system.



CAUTION: Do not disconnect the expansion cable without first turning all units off by holding the On/Off button for 10s.

UPS & PASS-THROUGH

This product is an uninterruptible power supply (UPS) equipped with pass-through technology. This means your appliance will run using grid power from your wall while the battery in this unit is kept at 100%. This will not harm the battery in any way. If power from the grid fails or the circuit breaker is tripped, the unit will automatically begin powering your appliance until grid power is restored.

Connect the Blackout Buddy to a wall outlet using the included AC charging cable, then connect your appliance to an AC output port on the unit.

During pass-through use, ensure this item is placed in a dry, secure location. See the Moving & Storage Instructions section on page 18 of this manual.

DURATION OF POWER SUPPLY DURING BLACKOUT

The duration of power supply depends on the energy consumption or watt usage of all connected devices. Lower total energy consumption will permit the Blackout Buddy to supply power for longer.

Here is a guideline for estimating the run time of a device:

Watt Hours/Watts = Estimated Run Time. For example, if the device you want to power uses 36W and the power unit has 1030Wh, then the estimated run time would be $1030/36 = 28.6$ hours. Adding Blackout Buddy units as additional batteries (see above) can double, triple, or even quadruple this run time for your appliance.

Note: The Time to Empty value on your LCD screen is an estimate based on the current power consumption of your appliance. Some appliances, like your refrigerator, will draw different amounts of power as the temperature rises and falls, which will affect the accuracy of this estimate.

MOVING & STORAGE INSTRUCTIONS

The Blackout Buddy is designed to remain plugged in and ready to go at all times. However, if you intend to store it for a time, first ensure the battery is fully charged, then disconnect all cables and hold the On/Off button for 10 seconds to turn the unit off. Then store it in a dry, ventilated place at room temperature. See Technical Specifications on page 19 for acceptable storage temperatures.

Do not place your Blackout Buddy near water sources. For best results, drain the battery to 0 and recharge back to 100% at least once every 6 months for best performance. This product weighs 34.6 lbs. Be sure you are capable of safely lifting this weight before attempting to carry this product. Use proper lifting techniques to protect yourself from injury.

To remove from a wall mount, first unscrew the two bolts on the bottom of the unit that keep it fixed to the mount, then lift the unit straight up to clear the mounting tabs on the wall mount and pull away from the wall.

Keep this unit away from water. Ensure it is stored in a cool, dry place. Never store the unit on the ground if there is any danger of flooding. See Technical Specifications on page 19 for acceptable storage temperatures.

Never attempt to move this unit with multiple Blackout Buddy units connected together. Disconnect all Blackout Buddy units and move each item separately. If moving this unit using a furniture dolly, cart, or other equipment, ensure your equipment is capable of handling the weight of the product, and always follow the manufacturer instructions for moving your equipment.

TECHNICAL SPECIFICATIONS

Spec	Target
Battery Capacity (Wh)	1030 Wh
Battery Chemistry	Lithium Iron Phosphate
Nominal Voltage	44.8V
Life Cycles (down to 80% DOD)	4000
Charge Retention (months)	12 Months
Expansion Batteries	Up to 3 Additional Units
Inverter Continuous (W)	600W
Inverter Peak (W)	1200W
AC Ports	2
Inverter Type	Pure Sine Wave
DC/ Solar Input	500W (12-59V) 14 A max
Solar Input - Max Current/Voltage Range	12V~59V/13A max
Solar/DC Input Port	1*Anderson Port
AC Charge Rate	600W MAX
AC Charge Time (Approx. Hours)	2.1 Hours
Storage Temperature	14-104°F
Operating Temperature	32-104°F
Weight (lbs)	34.6 lbs
Size (inches)	14.96" x 21.85" x 2.55"

USER MAINTENANCE INSTRUCTIONS

TIPS FOR IMPROVING PERFORMANCE OF YOUR POWER UNIT

- This power unit contains a durable, high-quality, high-capacity Lithium Iron Phosphate battery. It has no memory effect. However, it's important to charge the unit within a temperature range of 50-86° F to achieve the optimal charging capacity.
- The LCD display provides charging status and current power.
- If you are storing your Blackout Buddy and not leaving it plugged into the wall outlet to provide uninterruptible power to your appliance, charge it at least once every 6 months to extend battery life, and then store in a cool, dry location.

BATTERY INFORMATION

- Unit contains a built-in, non-removable, rechargeable Lithium Iron Phosphate battery.
- Do not attempt to remove the battery as this may damage the unit and will void the warranty.
- The battery can be charged and discharged over 4,000 times, which means you have coverage for 4,000 blackouts. It will not be affected when supplying power to your appliance from the grid.

RECYCLING

Dispose of unit, batteries, and packaging per local laws.

ERROR CODES

Error Code	Reason	Solution
E01	Inverter Overload/Short-Circuit	The Blackout Buddy will attempt to resolve the issue automatically. If the error repeats, unplug your appliance and ensure your appliance requires no more than 600 watts to run.
E02	Low temperature protection	Move your Blackout Buddy to a warmer environment.
E03	High temperature protection	Move your Blackout Buddy to a cooler environment. Ensure the vents on the Blackout Buddy have at least 6 inches of open air for ventilation.
E04	Battery pack not working properly	The Blackout Buddy will attempt to resolve the issue automatically. If the error repeats, Reset the Blackout Buddy using the steps below. If the problem persists, drain the unit to 0% and recharge to 100%, if possible.
E05	AC or Solar Input Issue	The Blackout Buddy will attempt to resolve the issue automatically. If the error repeats, Reset the Blackout Buddy using the steps below.
E06	Inverter status failure	Same solution as E05 error.
E07	Inverter charge error	Same solution as E05 error.
E08	Inverter discharge error	Same solution as E05 error.
E09	Expansion Battery Communication Error	Reset the Blackout Buddy using the steps below. Do not connect or disconnect the expansion cable except when both units are off.
E10	Initial Connection Error for Expansion Battery	Same solution as E09 error.

To reset the Blackout Buddy:

1. Unplug any appliances connected to the Blackout Buddy.
2. Unplug the Blackout Buddy from the wall outlet and any solar panels.
3. Hold the On/Off button on the Blackout Buddy for 10s until the LEDs deactivate to turn the unit off.
4. Tap the On/Off button or plug the Blackout Buddy back into the wall outlet to turn the unit back on.
5. Reconnect all other cables (appliances, solar panels and the remote LCD screen).

If you've attempted the above steps and the problem persists, please contact Customer Support (see Contact Information on page 26).

TROUBLESHOOTING/FAQ

1. My Blackout Buddy won't turn on.

- The Blackout Buddy does not have an on/off switch. It is designed to come on as soon as you plug it into the wall.
- When the battery in the Blackout Buddy is empty and the unit shuts down automatically, you will need to plug the unit into an AC outlet to reset the unit. A blue LED near the input cable will light when the Blackout Buddy is receiving power from the wall outlet. Once the unit is reset, it will turn back on and should work normally. It may take a moment before the LED lights and remote screen reactivate.
- For the Blackout Buddy to function at its highest ability, the battery must be kept charged and must not be abused, misused, or damaged. Please ensure all of these conditions are met.
- Should you encounter further trouble, please contact our Customer Support team (see Contact Information on page 26).

2. My appliances aren't running when plugged into the Blackout Buddy.

If your devices aren't charging after both the Blackout Buddy and the appliance are plugged in, check the following:

- Ensure the battery in the Blackout Buddy is charged by pressing the button near the LED indicators at the front of the unit or checking the LCD screen.
- Check the power requirements of your device. Any device that requires more than 600W cannot be charged by this unit.
- Ensure that your wall outlet is supplying power - the breaker may be tripped.

3. Can I use my own accessories for Blackout Buddy usage?

No.  Disclaimer - Aftermarket Device Use

This product is designed for use with approved accessories only. Using aftermarket or non-approved devices may cause damage or safety risks. By doing so, you assume all responsibility for any issues that arise. The manufacturer is not liable for damage or malfunctions caused by non-approved components.

4. How do I know when my Blackout Buddy is fully discharged?

Do not attempt to discharge the Blackout Buddy once the battery status bar shows there is no power left. Doing so could cause damage to the unit and will void your warranty.

5. My Blackout Buddy won't charge when I connect my solar panel to it.

Solar charging information is detailed in the section titled "CHARGING THE POWER UNIT FROM A PORTABLE SOLAR PANEL" on page 13.

6. I disconnected my Blackout Buddy, but the unit's fan is still on. Should I be worried?

If your Blackout Buddy is disconnected from the wall, it will continue to run off its internal battery, and the fan will keep it cool. The fan will continue to turn on and off intermittently as needed. To fully turn the unit off, hold the On/Off button for 10 seconds.

7. The Blackout Buddy emits a burning odor while operating.

The Blackout Buddy should not have any odor while functioning or being stored. Dust, dirt, or debris should not be allowed to enter the unit, but if it does, it may emit a very light odor similar to a clothes dryer when the unit is powered on. Use electronics-safe compressed canned air to clear the vents of your unit (only while the unit is turned off). If you notice a strong, smoky, or persistent odor, stop use immediately. Do not attempt to remove anything from the interior of the Blackout Buddy. Do not use the unit again, and contact Customer Support for repair or replacement (see Contact Information on page 26).

8. My Blackout Buddy got wet and now will not turn on.

- The Blackout Buddy can be damaged when it is used improperly or in harsh conditions. Do not place it directly on any floor that might get wet, including next to a refrigerator or near a sump pump. If your unit is submerged in water, do not turn it on or touch it. The Blackout Buddy contains a powerful battery, and when it comes into contact with water or any other conducting equivalent, it will create an unsafe environment, void the warranty, and may cause injury.
- Additionally, the Blackout Buddy should not be dropped from any height.

9. Can I use other Blackout Buddy units or batteries as additional batteries for my Blackout Buddy?

You can connect multiple Blackout Buddy batteries (only use Blackout Buddy units). Follow the instructions on page 17 under the "DOUBLE YOUR POWER CAPACITY" section to connect additional units.

10. My LCD screen turns off and I'm not sure how to turn it back on.

If the LCD screen does not come on after pressing the button below the screen, unplug it and plug it back into the Blackout Buddy. You should also ensure the battery in the Blackout Buddy is charged by pressing the button on the front of the Blackout Buddy itself to check the LEDs. (See the section

under the “USING THE BUILT-IN LEDs” heading on page 14.) If the Blackout Buddy is charged and the LCD screen still does not come back on, contact Customer Support (see Contact Information on page 26).

11. My "Time to Empty" on my LCS screen seems too short/too long.

The Time to Empty value on your screen is an estimate based off the current power consumption of your appliance. The power needed to run many appliances rises and falls over time, and this will affect the time estimate on your screen. Your fridge, for example, turns on when the temperature gets too high and off again when the temperature cools, leading to your Time to Empty becoming longer and shorter.

12. How do I clean smudges and fingerprints off of my Blackout Buddy?

To clean the metal surfaces of your Blackout Buddy, we suggest wiping the area with a mild steel cleaner while applying firm, consistent pressure.

WARRANTY INFORMATION

The Blackout Buddy is backed by our 4Patriots manufacturer warranty. Subject to certain exclusions, the standard warranty period for all 4P products is 365 days beginning on the date of purchase.

For questions about our warranty, please call Customer Support at 1-800-304-4202 or email at help@4patriots.com.

0 TO 365 DAYS FROM THE DATE OF PURCHASE:

WHAT IS COVERED?

- Defects in materials or workmanship.
- Non-cosmetic normal wear and tear-related damages.
- To obtain return authorization, please contact our Customer Support team (see Contact Information on page 26). A Returned Merchandise Authorization (RMA) number will be issued, and a pickup will be scheduled. **Do not return any unit without prior authorization.** Returns that have been properly authorized will not be subject to a restocking fee.

WHAT IS NOT COVERED?

- Misuse, including failure to follow directions in the product manual (including recommended charging).
- Damage caused by accident (which may be covered separately if an additional extended product warranty covering accidental damage was purchased for the applicable product).
- Unauthorized attempted repairs.
- Products purchased from unauthorized third parties.

ADDITIONAL TERMS:

- Returns must include all original accessories unless otherwise instructed. Customer will be charged for any missing items.
- Proof of purchase (receipt, order confirmation, etc.) is required for warranty service.
- Returned units must be packaged securely and labeled clearly. Damage caused by poor packaging is the responsibility of the customer and may void the warranty.
- To facilitate the return process, write the unit's serial number (found on the back of the unit) on the outside of the shipment box. Customers should also retain and record this information.
- At our discretion, units will either be repaired or replaced.
- If a unit is returned for replacement and found to be free of defects or damage, the customer may be responsible for a service fee, plus shipping and handling, and any other applicable processing costs.

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Because some states do not allow the exclusion or limitation of certain damages, the above may not apply to you. In such cases, liability is limited to the fullest extent permitted by law.

DATE AND EDITION

January 2026, 1st Ed.

CONTACT INFORMATION

1-800-304-4202
help@4patriots.com

COMPLIANCE & REGULATIONS

FCC Statement:

This product complies with Part 15 of the FCC Rules. Operation is subject to the following two conditions:

1. This product may not cause harmful interference, and
2. This product must accept any interference received, including interference that may cause undesired operation.

Warning: Changes or modifications not expressly approved by the party responsible for compliance could void the user's authority to operate the equipment.

Note: *This equipment has been tested and found to comply with the limits for a Class B digital device, pursuant to Part 15 of the FCC Rules. These limits are designed to provide reasonable protection against harmful interference in a residential installation. This equipment generates, uses, and can radiate radio frequency energy and, if not installed and used in accordance with the instructions, may cause harmful interference to radio communications. However, there is no guarantee that interference will not occur in a particular installation. If this equipment does cause harmful interference to radio or television reception, which can be determined by turning the equipment off and on, the user is encouraged to try to correct the interference by one or more of the following measures:*

1. *Orient or relocate the receiving antenna.*
2. *Increase the separation between the equipment and receiver.*
3. *Connect the equipment into an outlet or circuit different from that to which the receiver is connected.*
4. *Consult the dealer or an experienced radio/TV technician for help.*

Responsible Party: 4Patriots, LLC

Address:

2920 Berry Hill Drive, Suite 300, Nashville, TN 37204

Contact:

4Patriots.com | (800) 304-4202 | help@4patriots.com



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