

## **Prepping Nutshell - Solar Lights**

During a grid down scenario, the most reliable source of battery power will be from charging small batteries from solar garden lights – it's cheap, simple.

The AA rechargeable battery in each light can be replaced on a daily basis with an uncharged one. Each \$2.50 charger will recharge one battery per day.

**Drawback:** Can only recharge AA and AAA size batteries.

### **Instructions**

The replacement rechargeable battery should be the same capacity as the original battery with the garden light. Such as, an AA, 600 MA original battery should be replaced by an AA 600 Ma battery.

NiCad batteries have the tendency of losing their memory and wind up holding less power. This can be overcome by using Nickle Metal Liquid Hydrate (Ni-mh) batteries, a little more costlier.

Although we have several models of solar garden lights, note that some lights use batteries 1/3 the size of AA batteries which won't help you. Our main focus is on:

[Ideaworks JB5629 Solar-Powered LED Accent Light, Set of 8](#) (Cost: \$20)

and AA batteries for it being:

[8 Piece Set AA Ni-mh 600mah 1.2v Rechargeable Batteries for solar lights](#) (Cost: \$9)

AAA batteries can be charged by placing a spacer in with the battery when charging. A small piece of copper tubing can be cut or bent for this. In a pinch use aluminum foil wadded up, but the foil has a short life span.