MAKING A FARADAY BOX

A sealed metal tin to keep spare electronics safe from surges.

A Faraday box is a sealed metal container that blocks electrical surges and radio signals. It can protect spare electronics from a severe solar storm or a big electrical surge. Rare, but possible.

SIX STEPS

1. **Pick a metal tin**
   Best: a lined metal pail with a lid from ITP Packaging (5 to 25 L). A biscuit or cake tin works for small items.
2. **Line the inside**
   Double-layer cardboard on every side, base and lid, so nothing inside touches the metal.
3. **Wrap each item**
   Put each item in a plastic bag, then wrap it in two or three layers of kitchen foil.
4. **Seal the lid**
   The lid must touch the tin all the way round, metal to metal. Wipe paint or rust off the rim and seal the joint with aluminium foil tape.
5. **Test it**
   Put a phone inside, close the lid and ring it. If it rings, there's a gap. Find it and fix it.
6. **Store it**
   Somewhere dry, off the floor. Check for rust and test again at the six-month check (P9).

WHAT TO PUT IN IT

- [ ] Spare wind-up or battery radio
- [ ] Spare torch and batteries
- [ ] Small power bank, fully charged
- [ ] Old phone with offline maps and contacts
- [ ] USB stick with copies of your documents (P7)
- [ ] Spare charging cables

Keep it real

Use it for spares, not things you use every day. The phone test is a simple check, not a guarantee. Battery and wind-up kit works anyway in a normal power cut (L1), so this is an extra layer, not a priority.