

Eskom's problems are, quite obviously, deeply entrenched and will be with us for a number of years. The new houses we are building at Sandbaai will have the option of an installation that will alleviate most of the inconvenience of Eskom's load shedding.

The developers are wiring the homes so that each room has a separate electrical circuit fed directly off the DB board. The circuit will feed a red socket that has a modified earth pin so that a normal plug cannot be fitted to them.

If the option for the UPS (Uninterruptible Power Supply.) is taken then the separate circuit will be fed by an UPS. If the option is not taken the circuit will be fed from the normal electrical collection. But the wiring will allow easy fitting of a UPS at a later stage should the home owner change their mind.

A scenario of equipment that should be kept powered during load shedding is given below with typical wattages.

Equipment	Typical Wattage
TV	100W. Modern LED flat panel. A plasma or old style TV will take too much power.
DSTV	50W
Computers	100W
Lights. 10 per house	6W per light. These are typical of LED downlighters. LEDs are the most efficient lighting method available. This gives a total light wattage of 60W

Adding these all together we believe that a typical house will require between 300 and 350W to keep essential items running during load shedding.

The UPS is rated with sufficient battery capacity to keep the above load operating for the 2 and a half hour load shedding period. (Plus we have factored in some spare capacity just in case.)

The end result is that the homeowner, assuming a gas stove, is hardly aware that load shedding has taken place. TV, computers and some lights carry on without any interruption at all. Clock radios and other items that require continuous power do not need resetting after a load shed. When power returns, the batteries are automatically recharged ready for the next event.

The circuits are protected by a 5A circuit breaker so that if the user plugs something like a kettle into the UPS the circuit will trip.