

Emergency Power: Standby or Portable

There are two basic types of generators to consider: standby and portable.

Standby Generators:

Automatic standby generators are wired directly into the home's electrical system and are fueled by the home's supply of either natural gas or LP fuel. The generator's automatic transfer switch automatically and safely switches from utility power to generator power as needed.



Standby generators are ideal for brief or prolonged outages. Units range from 8,000 watts to 60,000 watts. They range in price depending on the wattage, but average unit costs about \$3500.00. The benefits are: 1. Reacts immediately to power outage and supplies electricity to your

home, then shuts itself off and returns to standby mode automatically, 2. Fueled by natural gas or propane, and permanently wired directly into your home's electrical panel. 3. Properly installed standby units have no danger of CO poisoning, no shock risk from electrical cords, and no storage of gasoline.

Portable Generators:

These units are powered by a gasoline engine and can power a limited number of lights and small appliances by using an extension cord. They can be stored in a garage or storage shed and are easily moved.



Portable generators are available in several sizes and prices; it all depends on how much power is needed. Portable units must be started manually and typically run for 8 to 12 hours on one tank of gas and provide 2 to 8 kilowatts or more. The average cost is \$600.00. The benefits include: 1. Low-cost solution for delivering electrical power, 2. Portable power where you need it for your home, 3. Electric or manual starter, and manual transfer switch options, 4. Powers various essential items such as TV, lighting, refrigerator or freezer.

Three Typical Sizes of Portable Generators:

A 3,250 Watt Generator Can Power:

Refrigerator
Television
Air conditioner (10,000 BTU)
4 lights (75 watts)

A 5,000 Watt Generator Can Power:

Refrigerator
Television
Microwave
Air conditioner (10,000 BTU)
4 lights (75 watts)
Deep freezer

An 8,000 Watt Generator Can Power:

Refrigerator
Television
Microwave (1,000 watts)
½ HP well pump
Security System
Air conditioner (10,000 BTU)
8 lights (75 watts)
Deep freezer
Electric stove
Garage door opener

Most appliances require more power to start than they will use when they are running. You will need to determine the electrical requirements of the appliances you would like to run, and add them up.