



## **Do you need a Portable Generator ?**

With the power becoming less reliable every year, power outages are bound to occur more frequently and last longer. That means you could end up sitting in the dark, sweating without an air conditioner, and eating canned meals while \$300 worth of food spoils in your freezer. Meanwhile, your basement could flood since the sump pump is now worthless—and your kids could go crazy without a TV or computer.

we all lose electricity occasionally. But when outages become routine, leaving you without electricity for days on end, it's time to take action by getting a generator. Smaller, portable generators are great for powering the essentials, like the refrigerator and microwave, while large standby generators can power everything in your house.

In this article, we'll walk you through both types of generators (portable and standby) and both ways to deliver backup power (extension cords and subpanels). We'll cover the pros and cons of each system and give you an idea of prices.

## **How to Pick the Right Portable Generator**

Portable generators come in a wide variety of different watts and prices. Don't get yourself caught up in all of the numbers.

If you take a moment to select the right style first, you will find that it's a whole lot easier to find the right generator to serve your specific needs.

Portable generators basically come in four different styles: Recreational, Emergency, Semi-Pro & Professional.

### **Recreational Generators**

When you hear the phrase "camping generators," you might think "loud" and "annoying." Not anymore.

New inverter generators are basically the broadband replacement to old conventional camping generators, which are now as unpopular as dial-up internet service.

The state-of-the-art technology was very expensive several years ago. However, prices and noise levels have dropped significantly recently. Recreational generators are finally appreciated by RV enthusiasts and tailgaters.



## Emergency Generators

Recreational generators are great for tailgating or camping. A power outage, however, is no picnic.

Small models will only power an appliance or two. Plus, you'll need to refill their small gas tanks every few hours.

Emergency generators, however, feature larger and more powerful engines designed to restore power to mission critical appliances like refrigerators, sump pumps, televisions and lights.

In addition, emergency generators come equipped with larger gas tanks designed to run hours without interruption. While not quite professional grade, these generators are durable yet affordable.

## Semi-Professional Generators

Semi-pro generators are popular among homeowners with high-end taste and contractors with frequent power needs.

With high-quality engines and durable components, semi-pro generators are equally capable of restoring power to a home from a blackout as they are powering tools on a job-site.

While they may not have all the bells and whistles found on professional models, these are heavy duty generators.

If you'll be using your generator exclusively on a job-site, get a professional model.

## Professional Generators

It's not uncommon to see a professional portable generator attending a tailgate party or rescuing a homeowner during blackout.

You won't, however, find professional-grade generators rusting outside your local hardware store.

These serious-duty generators are built in limited quantities for professionals, who recognize that quality doesn't come cheap.

Professional generators are constructed with commercial-quality components designed to run a full shift on a daily basis.

Basic features – like hour meters, lifting eyes and GFCI outlets – aren't accessories. They're necessities.



# Outdoor Power Equipment

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Tool or Appliance	Running (Rated) Watts	Additional Starting (Surge) Watts
<b>HOME</b>		
<b>Essentials</b>		
Light Bulb – 60 Watt	60	0
Light Bulb – 75 Watt	75	0
Deep Freezer	500	1500
Sump Pump 1/3 HP	800	1300
Well Pump 1/2 HP	1000	2100
Electric Water Heater	4000	0
<b>Heating / Cooling</b>		
Space Heater	1800	0
<b>Humidifier – 13 Gal</b>		
Furnace Fan Blower – 1/2 HP	800	2350
Furnace Fan Blower – 1/3 HP	700	1400
Window AC – 10,000 BTU	1200	3600
Window AC – 12,000 BTU	3250	9750
Central AC – 10,000 BTU	1500	4500
Central AC – 24,000 BTU	3800	11400
Heat Pump	4700	4500
<b>Laundry Room</b>		
Iron	1200	0
Washing Machine	1150	2250
Clothes Dryer – Electric	5400	6750
Clothes Dryer – Gas	700	1800
<b>Kitchen</b>		
Refrigerator/Freezer	700	2200
Microwave Oven – 625 Watts	625	0
Microwave Oven – 1000 Watts	1000	0
Coffee Maker	1000	0
Electric Stove – 8 in. Element	2100	0
Dishwasher – Hot Dry	1500	1500
Food Processor	400	0
Toaster Oven	1200	0
Toaster	850	0
Electric Can Opener	168	0
<b>Family Room</b>		
VCR	100	0
Stereo Receiver	450	0
Color TV – 27 in.	500	0
Video Game System	40	0
<b>Other</b>		
Security System	500	0
1/2 HP Garage Door Opener	875	2350
Hair Dryer – 1250 Watts	1250	0
Curling Iron	1500	0
<b>WORK</b>		
<b>DIY / Jobsite</b>		
Quartz Halogen Work Light	1000	0
Airless Sprayer – 1/3 HP	600	1200
Reciprocating Saw	980	0
Electric Drill – 3/8 in., 4 Amps	440	600
Electric Drill – 1/2 in., 5.4 Amps	600	900
Circular Saw – 7 1/4 in.	1400	2300
Belt Sander	1200	2400
Air Compressor – 1/4 HP	975	1600
Air Compressor – 1 HP	1600	4500
<b>Office Equipment</b>		
Computer w/17 in. Monitor	800	0
Fax Machine	65	0
Laser Printer	950	0
Copy Machine	1600	0
<b>PLAY</b>		
<b>Tailgating / Camping</b>		
Electric Grill	1650	0
AM/FM Radio	100	0
CD/DVD Player	100	0
Box Fan	200	0