



Choosing the Right Home Generator

Generators provide an alternate supply of energy to your home in the event of a power outage. As we have witnessed at least four power outages over the last few years, it makes sense to prepare your home for the inevitable.

You must ask yourself the following:

- What size do I need?
- What kind of appliances will the generator have to power when there's a power outage?
- Do I want a stationary or portable generator?
- What accessories will ensure the safe use of my generator?

It's not the physical size but the amount of wattage that we are referring to. To determine how much wattage you need, you must first decide if you need a portable or stationary generator. Permanently mounted standby generators provide automatic power when the regular power supply is interrupted. Powered by natural gas, they can power selected circuits within a few seconds of a power failure. These are wise investments for areas that may experience frequent power outages.

While choosing a home generator it is important to consider the fuel use for running the unit. Both standby and portable home generators are available in gasoline, diesel fuel, natural gas, and propane units. Models that operate by

using gasoline and diesel fuel have a short running time. In simpler terms, refilling of the fuel tank is required for prolonged usage of the unit. Some units can be operated either by using natural gas or propane, thus increasing the flexibility. Make sure you select the home generator unit depending upon the availability of the fuel in your area. Considering the cost, home generators that operate by using natural gas are cheaper than other units.

Depending on their wattage output, generators will run anything from a small lamp to a number of large appliances. To determine the size generator you will need, total the wattage of the maximum number of items you will be running simultaneously. For items with startup ratings higher than their run ratings, use the higher rating to determine your power requirements.

Inductive load appliances and tools such as refrigerators, washers, and power tools require additional wattage for starting the equipment. The initial load only lasts for a few seconds on startup but is very important when calculating your total wattage.

For example: Running a 100 watt light bulb, a 200 watt slow cooker, a 1,200 watt refrigerator with a start up wattage of 2,900 watts and a 750 watt TV would require 3,950 watts.

We recommend that you contact our Best of Success Electrical Contractor "Ambrose Electric" to find the Best generator for your home use.



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Stay warm and comfortable during the power outage!