

## Generator Safety

Fueled by gas, generators can run appliances and fans. Sizes range from 750 watts, which will run a fan and a light up to 8,000 watts, which will practically run a house (except for the air condition). Refrigerators require 400-1,000 watts.

### If you have lost power:

- ❖ don't connect a portable generator to building wiring. This could injure or kill neighbors or electrical crews.
- ❖ Plug appliances, etc., directly into the generator.
- ❖ Place generator outdoors or in a well-ventilated area.
- ❖ Don't forget to check the oil every time you add gas.

Conserve fuel by alternating appliances. For example, refrigerators can be kept cool by supplying power eight hours a day.

When the power goes off, many residents turn to emergency generators to power refrigerators, freezers, lights, fans and other appliances. If you use a generator, extreme caution is required. While convenient and useful, generators can create hazards for homeowners and electric utility workers. **Always read and follow the manufacturer's safety and operating instructions.**

Carbon Monoxide (CO) is a colorless, odorless and tasteless poison gas. It is a component of the exhaust from the generator engine. The symptoms of exposure are subtle, but deadly. Never run your generator inside your home or garage or in any other enclosed space. Inexpensive CO detectors, similar to smoke alarms, are readily available and recommended as an added safety precaution.

- To avoid Carbon Monoxide poisoning, never use a generator indoors or in attached garages. Only operate the generator outdoors in a well-ventilated, dry area away from air intakes to the home.
- To avoid electrocution, plug individual appliances into the generator using heavy duty, outdoor rated cords with a wire gauge adequate for the appliance load. Do not operate more appliances and equipment than the output rating of the generator. This will overload and damage the generator and possibly create a fire hazard.
- If a generator is connected to the house wiring, the home must have a transfer switch installed by a licensed electrician. A transfer switch connects your house to the generator and disconnects it from the utility power. This prevents backfeeding, energizing circuits outside your home. Backfeeding most commonly occurs when a generator is connected directly to the electric panel or circuit in a home. Feeding power back into the utility system during an outage

will energize the transformer serving the house and could pose a serious threat crews working to restore power in the area who may not know they are working with an energized line.

**Use this guide to help determine which generator is right for you.**

$$\text{Amps x Volts} = \text{Watts}$$

### Wattage Requirement Guide

ITEM	RUNNING WATTAGE	STARTING WATTAGE
Dishwasher	700	1400
Cool Dry	1450	1400
Hot Dry		
Coffee Maker	1750	0
Electric Fry Pan	1300	0
Refrigerator or Freezer	700	2200
Dehumidifier	650	800
Clothes Dryer		
Gas	700	1800
Electric	5750	1800
Toaster		
2-slice	1050	0
4-slice	1650	0
Automatic Washer	1150	2300
Microwave Oven (625 Watts)	625	800
Electric Range (6-inch Element)	1500	0
Garage Door Opener		
1/4 hp	550	1100
1/2 hp	725	1400

ITEM	RUNNING WATTAGE	STARTING WATTAGE
Hair Dryers	300-1200	0
Iron	1200	0
Lights	As indicated on bulb	
Radio	50 to 200	0
Well Pump		
1/3 hp	750	1400
1/2 hp	1400	2100
Sump Pump		
1/3 hp	800	1300
1/2 hp	1050	2150
Television (Color)	300	0
Vacuum Cleaner	800	0
Air Conditioner		
10,000 BTU	1500	2200
20,000 BTU	2500	3300
24,000 BTU	3800	4950
32,000 BTU	5000	6500
40,000 BTU	6000	7800