

ESTIMATING POWER NEEDS: PORTABLE GENERATORS

The more watts your portable generator produces, the more items you can power at the same time. The wattage reference chart below contains examples of what you can power with a portable generator. Use the chart and the following steps to help you determine how powerful your portable generator should be.

- 1** Select items from the chart that you would like to power at the same time. Fill in the **RUNNING WATTS** and **ADDITIONAL STARTING WATTS** requirements in the "Your Power Needs" Section.
- 2** Total the **RUNNING WATTS** of the items you wish to power at one time. Enter this number in the **TOTAL RUNNING WATTS** box.
- 3** Identify the **ONE INDIVIDUAL ITEM** on your list with the highest number of additional starting watts. Enter this item's additional starting watts. Add it to the **RUNNING WATTS** of the other items listed, and enter that number in the **TOTAL STARTING WATTS** box.

Needs:

Tool or Appliance	Running Watts	Starting Watts
HOME		
Essentials		
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
Heating / Cooling		
Space Heater	1800	0
Humidifier - 13 Gal	175	0
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
Laundry Room		
Iron	1200	0
Washing Machine	1150	2250
Clothes Dryer – Electric	5400	6750
Clothes Dryer – Gas	700	1800
Kitchen		
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
Family Room		
VCR	100	0
Stereo Receiver	450	0
Color TV – 27 in.	500	0
Video Game System	40	0
Other		
Security System	500	0
1/2 HP Garage Door Opener	875	2350
Hair Dryer – 1250 Watts	1250	0
Curling Iron	1500	0

Needs:

Tool or Appliance	Running Watts	Starting Watts
WORK		
DIY / Jobsite		
Quartz Halogen Work Light	100	0
Airless Sprayer – 1/3 HP	600	1200
Reciprocating Saw	960	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
Office Equipment		
Computer w/17 in. Monitor	800	0
Fax Machine	65	0
Laser Printer	950	0
Copy Machine	1600	0
PLAY		
Tailgating / Camping		
Electric Grill	1650	0
AM/FM Radio	100	0
CD/DVD Player	100	0
Box Fan	200	0

Tool or Appliance	Running Watts	Starting Watts
1. Refrigerator/Freezer	700	2200
2. Furnace Fan Blower – 1/2 HP	800	2350
3. Deep Freezer	500	1500
4. Color TV – 27 in.	500	0
5. Light Bulb – 75 Watt (x6)	450	0

With this example you need a generator that produces at least 2950 total running watts and 4500 total starting watts

TOTAL Running Watts	2950
Highest Additional Starting Watts +	1550
TOTAL Starting Watts	4500

Your Power Needs:

Tool or Appliance	Running Watts	Starting Watts
1.		
2.		
3.		
4.		
5.		
6.		
7.		
8.		
9.		
10.		

TOTAL Running Watts

Highest Additional Starting Watts +

TOTAL Starting Watts