

DETERMINE YOUR GENERATOR NEEDS

To help determine your power requirement needs, use the table below to estimate the total wattage of the appliances you would need to power. Check nameplate on your appliances to get the exact rating and have your licensed electrical contractor confirm the correct size generator for your home.

COMMON APPLIANCES

APPLIANCE	WATTAGE
*Furnace Fan	600 (1/4 HP)
*Washing Machine	750
*Air Conditioner	3800 (24,000BTU)
*Clothes Dryer (gas)	700
*Clothes Dryer (electric)	5750
*Refrigerator	600 (average)
*Well Pump	1000 (1/2 HP)
*Freezer	2500
*Sump Pump	1050 (1/2 HP)
Electric Range element (8")	2100
Electric Range element (6")	1500
Television (color)	300
*Microwave 750 Watts	750
Hair Dryer	800-1700
Coffee Maker	1200
Space Heater	1000-1500

CONSIDER:

Watts = Amps x Volts

Amps = Watts ÷ Volts

Volts = Watts ÷ Amps

NEVER

- Use a generator in an enclosed area.
- Use a generator near a window.
- Plug a generator into a wall outlet.
- Fuel a generator when it is running. Turn the generator off and let it cool before refueling.
- Operate more equipment and appliances than the output rating of the generator.
- Pull your electric meter.

ALWAYS

- Get your permits and inspections.
- Properly connect your generator so it is isolated from Consumers Energy's distribution system.
- Use your generator in a properly vented area.
- Check cords for signs of damage and replace if necessary.

HOME GENERATOR SAFETY

*Before the storm approaches ...
make sure your generator
is installed correctly.
Contact a licensed electrical
contractor for help.*

Consumers Energy

Count on Us®

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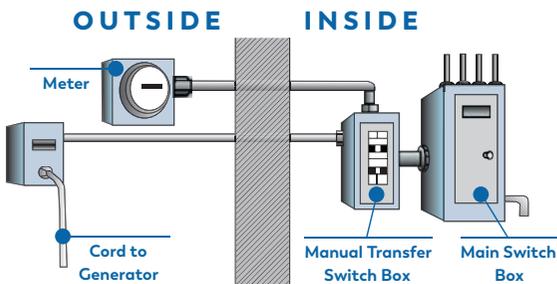
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INTRODUCTION

A home generator can be helpful during an extended power outage and choosing a generator that suits your energy needs is an important decision. Regardless of your choice, there are important safety considerations when selecting a generator.

Home Generator Installation



PERMANENT GENERATORS

Permanent generators, also called standby or whole-house generators, are always connected to your home and automatically switch over when you lose power. They often run on natural gas or propane.

- Permanent generators must meet local, state and national fire and electric codes and should only be installed by a licensed electrical contractor.
- There are several ways to connect your generator to your home's wiring circuit. However, it must be electrically isolated from Consumers Energy's distribution system.
 - A double-throw transfer switch, or similarly approved isolation switch, must be installed.

HOME GENERATOR SAFETY

PREVENT GENERATOR HAZARDS

- Carbon monoxide poisoning
- Electric shock or electrocution
- Fire

PORTABLE GENERATORS

Portable generators can be manually connected as needed to your circuit-breaker panel or power individual appliances through extension cords. They usually are run with gasoline.

- Never pull your electric meter to disconnect from the Consumers Energy's distribution system.
- Connect appliances to the generator using flexible extension cords with current ratings adequate for the appliances being served.
- A double-throw transfer switch is not required when powering appliances via a properly rated extension cord, i.e., refrigerators, freezers, space heaters, etc.
- Never plug a portable generator into a wall outlet; you could damage your home's wiring.

SELECTING A GENERATOR

- A generator typically produces 1,000 watts of power for every HP of motor output. **Remember to choose a generator that produces at least 25 percent more power than the total load that will be connected.** Adding up the power requirements of the appliances and equipment you wish to power with a generator will help determine the size you need. Confirm with a licensed electrical contractor that you have selected the correct generator size.

CONNECTING A GENERATOR

An improperly connected generator poses a serious risk to you, your neighbors and workers restoring your power.

- A poorly connected generator can cause backfeed, leading to potential for fires or electrocution.
- Before permanently installing a generator, contact your local electrical inspector and a qualified electrician to obtain the proper permits and connection criteria.

USING A GENERATOR

- Never operate a generator in your home, garage, basement or any other enclosed area.
- Always read the owner's manual carefully following all manufacturer instructions and precautions before starting and operating your generator.
- A portable generator should be placed as far as possible from any doors, windows or fresh air intakes and consistent with the safety manual recommendations. Proper ventilation is critical.
- A temporary canopy can help keep it dry.