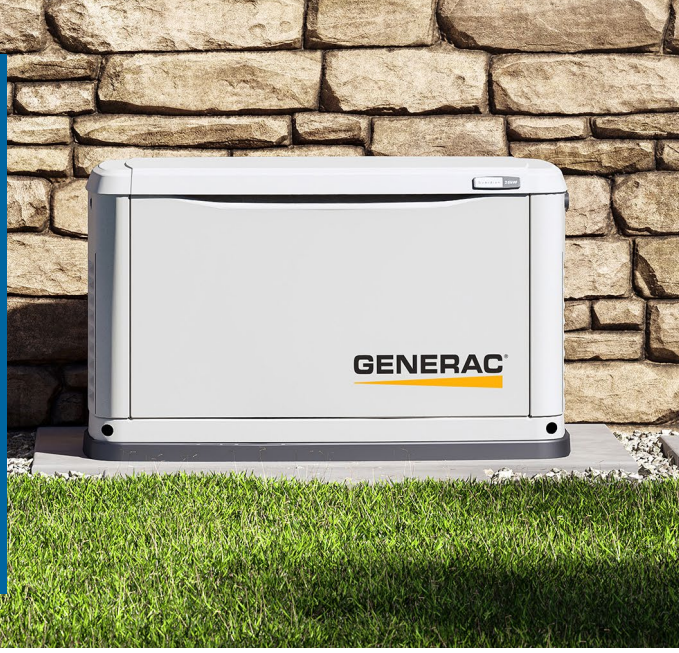
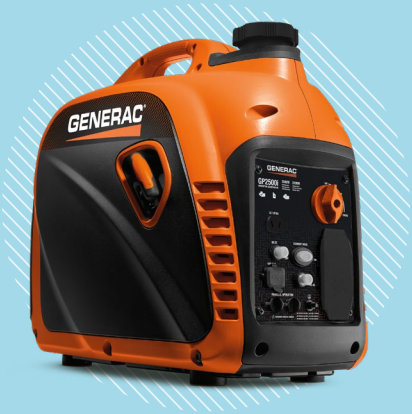
sam's club

Generator Buying Guide

Generators come in several different types, sizes, outputs and prices. This guide will help you determine what type of generator is right for you based on your particular need or use case.





INVERTER GENERATORS

Inverter generators are great solutions for take-anywhere power. Small footprints, manageable weights, and simple fueling options make inverter generators an ideal solution for going on adventures, getting the job done, or providing crucial power during a power outage.

Key Benefits:

Clean Power

Safe for use with sensitive electronics and tools

Quiet Performance

Enclosed designs dramatically reduce noise levels

Compact & Lightweight

Easy to transport and store with built – in handles

Perfect for Powering:

100 WATTS
Radio

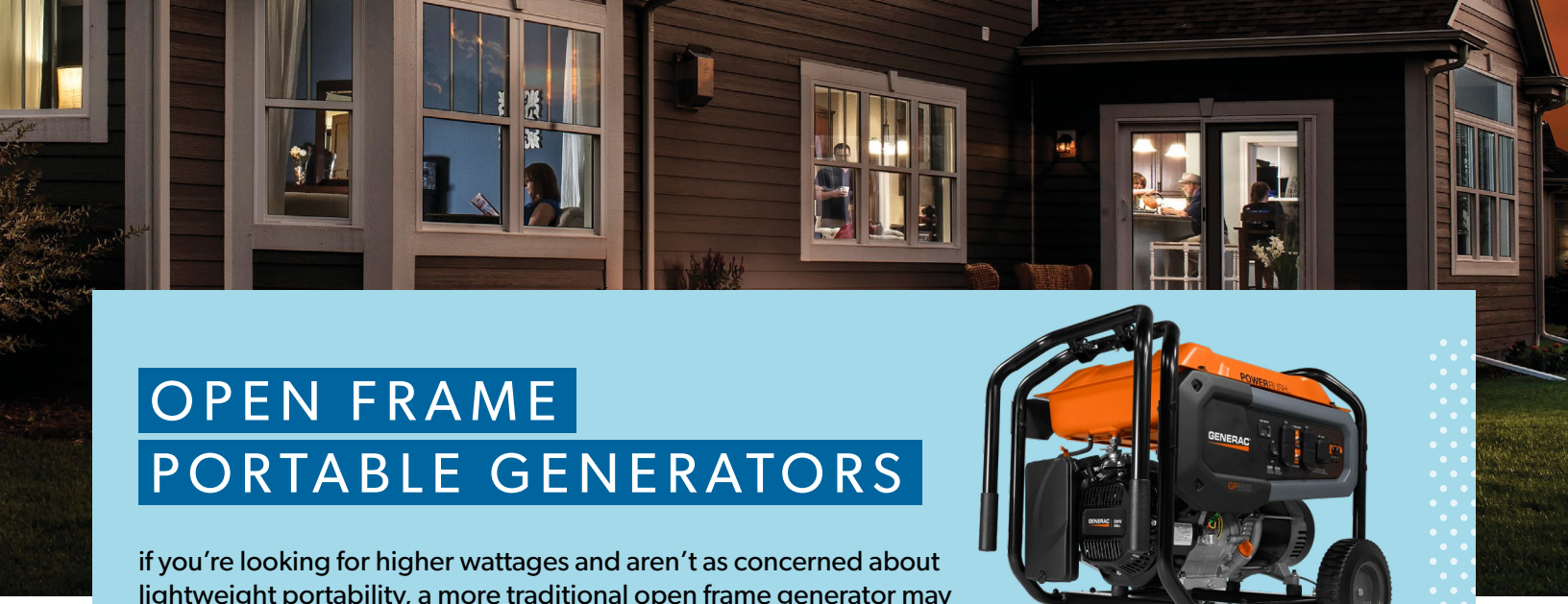
150 WATTS
13" LCD TV

200 WATTS
Fan

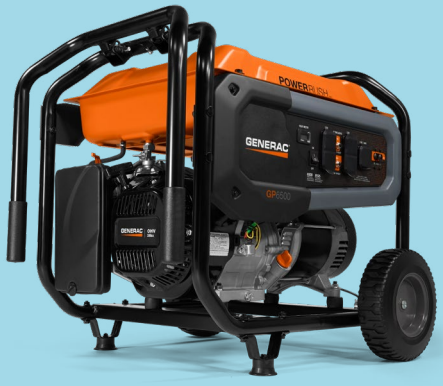
250 WATTS
Slow Cooker

300 WATTS
Blender

1500 WATTS
RV Air Condition (13,500 BTU)
+ 700 Starting Watts



OPEN FRAME PORTABLE GENERATORS



if you're looking for higher wattages and aren't as concerned about lightweight portability, a more traditional open frame generator may be a better fit.

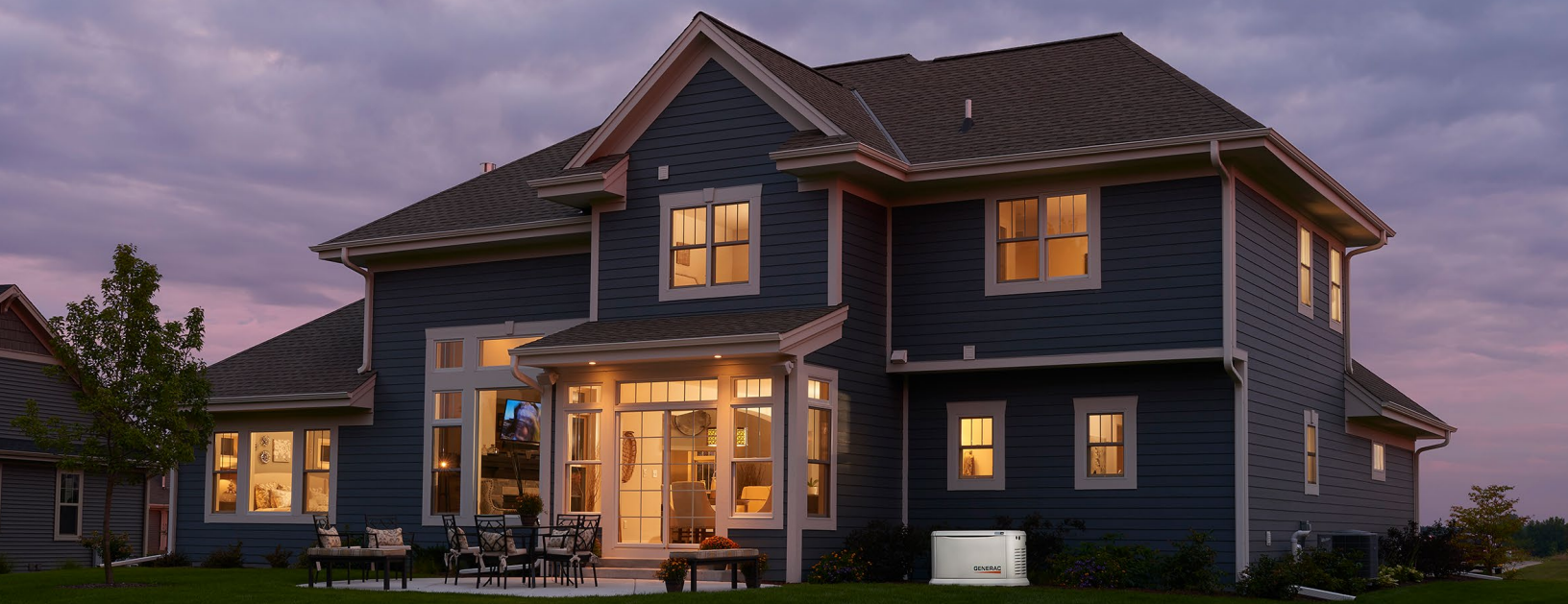
If short term emergency backup power is your main concern, traditional open-frame generators provide the best dollar-per-watt value on the market. While you won't be able to carry around an open frame generator as easily as you can with most inverters, the included wheel and handle kits still allow for portability around the home or jobsite. Open frame generators are louder than inverter generators due to the additional power that open frame generators provide. These generators provide enough power to start major appliances such as central air or a furnace during a power outage.

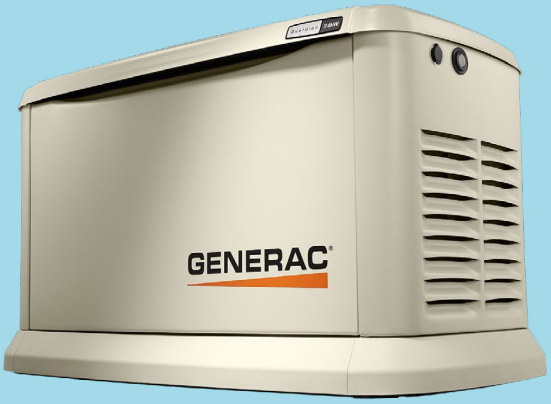
Key Benefits:

- **Powerful OHV Engines**
- **Dual Fuel Options Available** (LP / Gasoline)
- **Larger Fuel Tanks for Long Run Times**

Perfect for Powering:

- **700 WATTS** Refrigerator + 2200 Starting Watts
- **875 WATTS** Furnace + 2300 Starting Watts
- **2000 WATTS** Well Pump + 2100 Starting Watts
- **2100 WATTS** Electric Ranger 8" Element
- **2200 WATTS** Sump Pump + 2150 Starting Watts
- **3250 WATTS** Window Air Conditioner + 3950 Starting Watts





HOME STANDBY GENERATORS

A permanently installed home standby generator protects your home automatically. It runs on natural gas or liquid propane (LP) fuel, and sits outside just like a central air conditioning unit. A home standby generator delivers power directly to your home's electrical system, backing up your entire home or just the most essential items.

How It Works:

1

Utility Power is Lost

Perhaps there is a storm. Maybe the electrical grid failed. In any case, the electricity you depend on is suddenly gone.

2

Your System Detects the Problem

Within seconds, your generator prepares to restore your home's power.

3

Your Generator Turns On

Whether you're home or away, within a few seconds, it is up to speed and generating electricity.

4

Your Power Is Restored

The automatic transfer switch sends generator power to your home, and it will continue until utility power returns.

Portable vs. Automatic Home Standby Power

You may be considering a portable generator for use during power outages. Portable generators can certainly be used to provide backup power, but there are some key differences to be aware of:

	PORTABLE GENERATORS	AUTOMATIC HOME STANDBY GENERATORS
Uses	Portability makes them ideal for job sites, tailgating, camping or other recreational activities	They are permanently installed at your home, similar to a central air unit
Starting	You must be home when the power goes out to start and connect almost all portable generators	Starts automatically when utility power is lost – whether you're home or away
Connecting	Must be manually connected via transfer switch or extension cord	Permanently connected to your home's electrical system
Refueling	Must be refueled every 6-12 hours, depending on loads and size of fuel tank	No refueling necessary if connected to a natural gas line or propane tank
Capacity	Typically powers only some key appliances	Can power your entire home or selected circuits
Monitoring	You must monitor operation in person	With Mobile Link™ you can monitor the generator's performance from anywhere in the world using a smartphone, tablet or PC

How Much Power Do You Need?

Sizing a portable generator is easy.
Check out this sample:

1. **CHOOSE WHICH DEVICES YOU WANT TO POWER AT THE SAME TIME.**
2. **RECORD AND ADD THE RUNNING WATTS LISTED FOR EACH DEVICE THAT YOU NEED TO POWER.**
3. **RECORD THE STARTING WATTS LISTED FOR EACH DEVICE.**
4. **SELECT THE ONE DEVICE WITH THE HIGHEST STARTING WATTS. ADD THAT NUMBER TO THE TOTAL RUNNING WATTS TO DETERMINE THE TOTAL WATTAGE REQUIREMENT.**

DEVICE	RUNNING WATTS	ADDITIONAL STARTING WATTS	GENERATOR SIZE
Air Compressor - 1 HP	1600	2900	Minimum starting watts for your needs
Circular Saw 15 Amp	1800	2300	
Microwave	1000		
Refrigerator/Freezer	700	2200	
LCD TV	450		
SUMP PUMP ½ HP	1050	2150	
Total	**6600** +	**2900** =	**9500** Starting watts

	DEVICE	RUNNING WATTS	ADDITIONAL STARTING WATTS
JOBSITE	Air Compressor - 1 HP	1600	2900
	Air Compressor - ½ HP	1000	2000
	Airless Paint Sprayer - ⅓ HP	600	1200
	Belt Sander - 3"	1200	2400
	Bench Grinder - 8"	1400	1100
	Circular Saw - 7-1/4"	1800	2300
	Hand Drill - 1/2"	600	900
	Hand Drill - 3/8"	400	600
	Miter Saw - 10"	1800	1800
	Quartz Halogen Work Light	1000	-
	Reciprocating Saw	960	-
	Table Saw, 10"	2000	2000
	Electric Hedge Trimmer	400	-
	Electric Line Trimmer - 9"	350	-
	Electric Chain Saw - 12" (1/2HP)	900	-
HOUSEHOLD	Computer with a 17" Monitor	800	-
	Microwave - 1000 Watts	1000	-
	Refrigerator/Freezer	700	2200
	Sump Pump 1/2 HP	1050	2150
	Television - 27"	500	-
	Well Pump - 1/2 HP	1000	2100
	Central AC - 24,000 BTU	3800	4950
	Furnace Fan Blower - 1/2 HP	875	2300
	Heat Pump	4700	4500
	Space Heater	1800	-
	Window AC - 12,000 BTU	3250	3950
RECREATION	AM/FM Radio	100	-
	CD / DVD Player	100	-
	Cell Phone Battery Charger	25	-
	Inflator Pump	50	150
	RV Air Conditioner (13,500 BTU)	1500	700

**Watts listed are approximate. Check your appliance for actual requirements. Total wattage requirements assumes intermittent starting of devices.*