



Portable And Standby Generators: Deciding Which Is Right For You

(NAPSA)—When it comes to safe, reliable backup power in the event of an outage, homeowners have several options to consider. That's important, because power outages are becoming more frequent due to severe weather, as well as an aging electrical grid. Many of these power outages can last for days—even weeks—at a time. This can lead to discomfort, spoiled food, lost productivity (especially if you work from home), increased security risks and the chance of flooding due to frozen pipes or a sump pump malfunction.

“Homeowners have two main options when it comes to backup power: portable generators or standby generators,” said Ed Del Grande, a master contractor, TV host and home improvement author. “Both are built for different purposes, so it's important to analyze your individual needs prior to making a purchase.”

Portable Generators

As the name would indicate, portable generators are mobile and can be moved into place wherever needed. These generators—which are great for work sites, tailgates and camping—can power several items, such as a plug-in appliance or lamp using properly rated extension cords. They run on gasoline or diesel and are manually operated. Portable generators must be operated outdoors away from a home due to carbon monoxide issues.

Standby Generators

A standby generator monitors utility power and automatically takes on your home's electrical load if power is lost, usually within 10 seconds. A standby unit is installed outside the house, much like a central air conditioner, and runs on propane or natural gas, so there's no refueling. It powers critical appliances and systems such as lights, furnaces, air conditioners, refrigerators, sump pumps, home security



Power to the people: A standby generator connects to your home permanently and turns on automatically when power is lost.

systems, office equipment and sensitive electronics, including TVs and computers.

Companies such as Kohler offer larger standby units that can power an entire home, as well as more compact-sized, affordable standby generators that are good for smaller homes, cabins or situations requiring less power. An 8-, 10- or 12-kilowatt standby generator will power a few key items during an outage, such as a refrigerator, lights and sump pump. Some of the newer models can even start a 5-ton central air conditioner while still powering other items.

“No matter the size, a standby generator provides great peace of mind and can protect everyone in your home—especially those who are most vulnerable, like children and the elderly,” Del Grande said.

If a standby generator is right for you, consider getting a unit that offers:

- A commercial-grade engine that powers up quickly, provides high-quality, consistent power and can handle heavy loads
- At least a five-year warranty
- A bold, clean look and corrosion-resistant housing, which is critically important if you live near salt water.

Learn More

For helpful videos, a generator selector and further facts about backup power, visit www.kohlergenerators.com.