

# HINTS FOR HOMEOWNERS

## Preparing For Power Outages

(NAPSA)—A recent survey found that a significant number of Americans expect to lose their electricity for 24 hours or more this year. Whether it lasts for several hours or several days, a power outage can damage home appliances, cause food to spoil and even put a family's safety at risk.

That same survey—conducted by the Propane Education & Research Council—found that half of all respondents were concerned that their air-conditioning would shut down during an outage. Respondents were also worried about the loss of home security systems (25 percent) and the inability to use certain medical devices (29 percent).

However, experts warn that power outage-related threats don't stop there. The outages can keep sump pumps from working, affect electrically operated wells and water purifiers and even affect home businesses.

So how can you prepare for a power outage? One of the best ways may be a standby generator. The devices are wired directly into a home's circuit breaker box and turn on automatically whenever there's an outage. Unlike a portable generator, you don't have to hook it into your home's electrical system in an emergency.

### **Choosing A Standby Generator**

You can buy your generator from a home improvement retailer, online retailer or from a generator dealer who will offer installation and service. Whichever method you choose, make sure it comes from a reputable store or dealer and with



**Bright Idea—Standby generators automatically power up a home, whenever an outage occurs.**

a comprehensive warranty.

An average home's essential appliances will operate on an air-cooled standby generator with 7,000 to 13,000 watts of power. However, people with central air units that require a lot of energy to start up may need to buy larger generators. A certified electrician can provide an accurate reading of what your needs will be based on the appliances and circuits you want routed to the generator during an outage.

### **Powering A Standby Generator**

Standby generators run on propane or natural gas during outages, which gives homeowners access to a reliable source of fuel to power their generator. Generators powered by propane tend to run longer than generators powered by other types of fuel. Plus, homeowners can store the propane in underground tanks that protect the fuel from the elements while keeping it readily available.

For more information, visit [www.usepropane.com](http://www.usepropane.com).