

1 Portable or Standby

While a portable generator is great for travel and outdoor adventure, a standby generator is the best option for a home. Be sure to look for these attributes in your standby generator:

- Heavy-duty, commercial-grade engines that stand up to extreme weather and workloads for years
- Hydraulic valve lifters, which require no breaking-in, just occasional oil changes
- Warranty protection plus a corrosion-proof or resistant enclosure

2 Cost of Full Installation

Factor in price of generator plus warranty coverage, installation, accessories (indoor or outdoor transfer switch, composite pad, etc.), fuel and maintenance.

3 Automatic or Manual Transfer Switch

Automatic transfer switches monitor electricity and turn on and off power automatically in a few seconds, even when you aren't home.

Manual transfer switches require manual switching and monitoring of power and usually are limited on number of circuits they can control.

4 Fuel Type

Natural Gas doesn't require refilling as it connects to the home gas line.

Propane (LP) can offer the maximum run time to get you through even the longest power outages.

Diesel fuel requires refilling and may not turn on or last as long as needed before utility power comes back on line.

5 Power Needed by Your Home



1,000 to 1,600 sq ft



1,600 to 3,000 sq ft



3,000 to 6,000+ sq ft

	1,000 to 1,600 sq ft	1,600 to 3,000 sq ft	3,000 to 6,000+ sq ft
Air Conditioner	2-3 ton	2-3 ton	4-5 ton
Bedrooms	1 - 2	3 - 4	5+
Bathrooms	1 - 1.5	3 - 4	5+
Basic Coverage	8.5 - 10 kW	10 - 14 kW	14 - 20 kW
Whole House Solution	14 - 20 kW	20 - 45 kW	30 - 125 kW