

“Poor-Boy” Emergency Power

For less than \$1000 you can provide emergency power!

What you need...

First: A 3,500 to 5,000 watt generator should be sufficient. These generators can typically be purchased from \$300 to \$500. A 3500 watt generator use 1/3 to 1/2 gal/hr. of fuel, a 5000 watt 3/4 to 1 gal/hr. Fuel may be limited. Your generator must have a 240 Volt 30Amp outlet.



Second: A custom-made male/male extension cord to connect the generator to your house must be fabricated by a competent fabricator.

Third: You must also install a wall outlet near your main power shut off. This is to connect the male/male cord from your house to your generator.



How it works...

Think of your house as a large appliance with many switches and appliances. To make it work you must plug it into a power supply, either the Power Company or your generator. Your house can only receive power from one source at a time. Since you are connected to the Power Company you must turn off (disconnect) the main switch before you connect your house to the generator. With no possibility of power being fed to your house you can now plug your house into the running generator.



Even if the power is off you must switch the main breaker to avoid power feed when power is restored. Not doing this properly will damage your generator.

A few points of efficiency...

- Only run your generator when you absolutely need power. Remember that you are using gasoline that may be unavailable.
- Turn off all lights, appliances, TV's and other items that are always on or on standby.
- Refrigerator and freezers do not need continual power to keep food. Keep the doors closed.
- Running your generator 30 to 45 minutes three or four times a day should be sufficient for all your needs and save you precious fuel.
- Remember that this is “Emergency” power; only use what you absolutely need.
- Use chart below to determine needs and to plan efficient usage.

Important!

There is innate danger in any electrical installation. If you do not have ample electrical understanding seek help from a competent electrician.

How Much Power Do You Need?

Appliance	Running Wattage*	Startup Wattage*
Dishwasher	700	1400
Electric Skillet	1600	
Electric Range Single Element**	2100	
Microwave	600-1200	900-1800
Refrigerator/Freezer	700	2000
Washing machine	1200	2400
Clothes dryer**	5800	1800
Lights	See bulb wattage	
Radio	50-200	
TV	300	
Furnace		
1/6 HP	500	750
1/4 HP	600	1000
1/3 HP	700	1400
1/2 HP	875	2350
Central Air**		
Computers		
Desktop	600-800	
Laptop	200-250	
Monitor	200-250	
Fax	600-800	
Printer	400-600	

*All ratings are estimates

*See plate on motor showing Amps and Volts, multiply Amps x Volts and that equals your Wattage:
Amps X Volts = Watts

**Power hogs, best not used