



NEWSLETTER



ELECTRIC GENERATORS

If you don't have a generator, you probably wish you had one based on the last storm!

The crème de la crème is a whole house generator (capable of powering up everything in the house) fueled by natural gas or propane (you don't have to worry about filling a fuel tank). The generator automatically starts up when the power goes out, and entire electrical system in your house is energized. These systems are usually on a service contract and have a self-testing capability making them reliable. Whole house generators cost somewhere in the range of \$5,000-\$10,000 plus installation. These systems get installed by the equipment dealers.

The other type of generator is usually portable and typically runs on gasoline. It does not power up the whole house, but it may power up essential circuits (heat, refrigerators, important lights, electric stoves, laundry machines, even air-conditioning (depending on the power output of the generator). But you must take the generator out of storage, move it to the right location, make sure that it works, and keep the gas tank full. Oil needs to be changed periodically and the gas tank needs to be emptied after the storm. Portable generators range from \$600 to \$2,000 depending on capacity and quality plus installation of a transfer switch and wires by an electrician. Transfer switches disconnect the house from the public electrical grid (so that somebody working on the public power grid doesn't get shocked).

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