

Do you need a backup power generator?

Proper home maintenance is all about planning and preparation. Given the uptick in extreme weather, that may mean investing in a backup power generator to keep your home running in the event of disaster or an extended power outage.

Which generator should I buy?

Our top pick is the DuroMax Electric-Start Generator, which provides a high power level and has five built-in outlets, making it powerful enough to power appliances like your refrigerator or washer/dryer. You can also read our comprehensive generator buying guide to learn more about the most important factors for buying a generator.

Are whole house generators better than portable generators?

Whole house generators are able to do this because they have higher power capacities--22 to 48 kilowatts--than portable generators, and can run significantly longer without maintenance. Portable generator options aren't permanent installations like whole house ones are.

Can a generator power a whole house?

Large whole-house generators can power an entire average home, while smaller units provide power for key appliances. These are the best standby models from CR's tests.

Can a portable generator power a home?

BF: You can use a portable generator to power a home, and for some people this may be a better solution than a standby generator because you can use the unit for other tasks.

How does a backup power generator work?

Backup power generators provide electricity to the home with the use of two main components: a gas- or battery-powered engine that turns an on-board alternator to generate alternating current (AC) electrical power.

# BEST GENERATOR FOR HOME BACKUP POWER CONSUMER REPORTS



The largest home standby generators in Consumer Reports' tests are rated to "A home standby generator is the single best tool available to use as a source of backup power," says Misha



When the power goes out, a generator can keep your house warm (or cool), your kitchen cooking, and your computers and phones charging. Sales spike around major storms???just before and a few weeks after???which means that too many buyers shop when the power's out, randomly choosing a generator that looks up to the task, and then have no idea ???



The Generac PowerPact is a basic but well-equipped home generator and an excellent budget buy. Designed to serve as a backup generator for the most essential appliances, this model includes an automatic transfer ???

# BEST GENERATOR FOR HOME BACKUP POWER CONSUMER REPORTS



Power output: 8,000 to 20,000 watts Price range: \$2,000 to \$5,000 Fuel needs: 13 to 48 gallons of liquid propane or natural gas per day Pros: Whole-house generators are largely worry-free. They

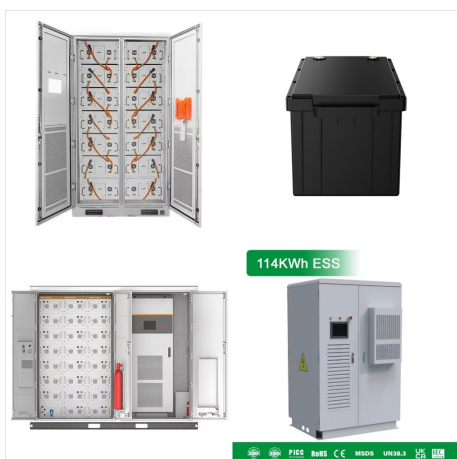


To help you select the best home generator for your needs, the This Old House Reviews Team put together this guide of the top home generators on the market. Our top pick is the DuroMax Electric-Start Generator, which ???



"A home standby generator is the single best tool available to use as a source of backup power," says Misha Kollontai, CR's test engineer who oversees generator testing. "But because of the

# BEST GENERATOR FOR HOME BACKUP POWER CONSUMER REPORTS



Update October 2019: Champion's 12.5-Kilowatt Model 100179 tied with Generac in the Large Home Generator category with a score of 93 and earned a "Recommended" Rating.. Norwall offers both generators rated by consumer reports in their online catalog under Champion. The 8.5-kilowatt Model 100174 includes an indoor 50-Amp Automatic Transfer ???



The Generac PowerPact is a basic but well-equipped home generator and an excellent budget buy. Designed to serve as a backup generator for the most essential appliances, this model includes an automatic transfer switch that can cover up to eight circuits. It supplies up to 7,500 watts of power when using propane but can also operate on natural gas???however, ???



Best Large Home Standby Generators Champion 100179 Price: \$2,800 Output: 12,500 watts (propane); 11,500 watts (natural gas) Average runtime: 198 hours CR's take: It's hard to beat this higher

# BEST GENERATOR FOR HOME BACKUP POWER CONSUMER REPORTS

---



This week's power storms serve as a good reminder to always be prepared in the event of a power outage. A generator can save the day in some cases, keeping the lights on and vital utilities running.



Solar generators are available as both portable generators and backup home generators. Most solar generators are portable, lightweight, and have a built-in handle. The best portable solar generators are used to provide power for construction sites, campers, events, or other settings where access to electricity is limited.