



# SELECTING THE RIGHT GENERATOR

- Energy Needs** – Calculate the “running wattage” needed to power the appliances you wish to operate. If you plan to run large appliances with motors, you’ll need a generator with a surge rating that meets or exceeds the higher “start-up wattage.”
- Choose a generator rated for more power than you may need.** Appliances, particularly ones with motors (e.g. refrigerators), may use more power when they first start up. This is referred to as “start-up wattage.” Be aware of these energy loads, their startup or “inrush” power requirement, and the generator’s ability to meet these demands. This is best determined by an electrician.
- Southern California Edison Marketplace** provides valuable purchasing information and rebates for smart product programs and tools such as portable power stations, portable generators, whole house generators, thermostats, and more. For the online marketplace and handy links to apply for rebate offers, visit [marketplace.sce.com/portable-generators](https://marketplace.sce.com/portable-generators).

## GENERATOR WATTAGE

A simple Google search for “generator wattage calculator” can help you determine your needs. Many appliances have labels on the back or bottom that will tell you what their wattage is. This will help you calculate your needs.



Generator Capacity Examples					
2,000 WATTS		3,000 WATTS		4,500 WATTS	
Run Multiple Small Appliances Simultaneously		Run Larger Appliances with Some Small Appliances		Run a Variety of Appliances	
<b>Always On</b>		<b>High Wattage</b>		<b>Even More Capacity</b>	
Mini Refrigerator	200 Watts	Refrigerator**	1200 Watts	Air Conditioner**	1500 Watts
TV, Flat Screen	120 Watts	Lamp	100 Watts	Mini Refrigerator	200 Watts
Lamp	100 Watts	TV, Flat Screen	120 Watts	TV, Flat Screen	120 Watts
Mobile Phone Charger x2	10 Watts	Mobile Phone Charger x2	10 Watts	Mobile Phone Charger x2	10 Watts
<b>Total</b>	<b>330 Watts</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>1430 Watts</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>1830 Watts</b>
<b>Rotating Appliances</b>		<b>Or</b>		<b>Or</b>	
Microwave	1000 Watts	Refrigerator**	1200 Watts	Mobile Phone Charger x2	10 Watts
		Lamp	100 Watts	Portable Heater**	1800 Watts
		Portable Heater	1800 Watts	Lamp	100 Watts
		<b>Total</b>	<b>3000 Watts</b>	TV, Flat Screen	120 Watts
				<b>Total</b>	<b>2030 Watts</b>

**NOTE:** Always choose a generator that is “oversized” for your needs by 10-20% to ensure it is sized sufficiently enough. This helps compensate for “startup watts”, which are double the “runing watts”. For critical medical devices, consult the manufacturer or medical equipment provider for generator recommendations.

\*\* High wattage appliances can be used in rotation, but not simultaneously. For example, unplug your refrigerator to use your microwave. When you are done, unplug the microwave and plug in the refrigerator.