

## **PREPARE Yourself for a Power Outage**

Power outages are no fun, everyone knows this, but do you how-to safely get through the blackout with your intact?

**Watch your food ---** No power means no refrigeration and a full freezer should keep food frozen for 48 hours. A full refrigerator will keep food cold for about 4 hours. The times go down drastically each time the door is opened.

**Clean water ---** Although house water will work, you should make sure there are no boil-water advisories in effect before you and/or your family drinks any.

**Stay connected ---** Landlines usually work during a power outage, but a cordless phone will not! Keep in mind that cell phone networks are frequently overloaded during power outages.

**Long term Alternant Power ---** Portable (gas driven) generators are find for small power usage such as; lights and television/radio, changing over to feed power to your refrigerator and freezer, etc. However, we have an alternant source many do not think about before hand, and that's "Backup Generator Supply."

When the electricity goes out, a backup generator is a good way to keep your home running. But keep in mind that most generators will only power part of your home's electrical load! So, you must first determine how much backup power you will need. A *8.5-kilowatt* generator (which starts at \$3,500) willpower your essential electric appliances, such as the furnace, refrigerator, freezer, sump pump, lights, and even the TV and computer. A *30- or 35-kilowatt* liquid-cooled unit (which starts at \$15,000) will provide enough electricity for everything in you house, including the air-conditioner. Forget gasoline-powered units. They are not for long-term solution.

Buy a unit that uses the same fuel as your furnace, usually electricity, natural gas or propane. These units are relatively maintenance free and start automatically.

The generator sits outside and on mounting pad (some have an attached pad), just like an air conditioner. In addition, you will need a transfer switch, which allows you to select the circuits you want powered. It's connected to the generator and the main electrical circuit panel, and it monitors utility power. When it senses a power failure, it starts the generator to restore electricity to the house. When power resumes, it turns itself off. The generator can run for days or weeks, if needed, so you will never be without power. These units make very little noise when they're in operation (they're quieter than a typical vacuum cleaner).

Installation is complicated and must be installed correctly! It requires a building permit and/or electrical installation permit and you may need to add a sub-panel to your circuit panel. A do-it-yourselfer can mount the pad, install the transfer switch to the circuit that goes from the transfer switch to the circuit panel (usually in the garage or basement or hanging on the exterior wall near the electrical power supply main box.

However, for all safety precautions, we suggest hiring a licensed electrical contractor to handle the connections in the circuit panel and/or contractor who is license to do gas and/or propane hook-ups. If you are slightly nervous or hesitant installing the unit, hire a professional for the complete project. Hiring a licensed professional to handle the complete installation should be around \$1,500.00. Always get bids and ask if they have installed this type of unit before and how many.

You may find some units sold in home centers (sometimes by special order), some electrical suppliers and manufacturers' dealers. Two companies that make backup generators are **Kohler** (800-544-2444; [www.KohlerPowerSystems.Com](http://www.KohlerPowerSystems.Com)) and **Generac** (888-436-3722; [www.Generac.Com](http://www.Generac.Com)).

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**Let's look at this wonder tool for long term emergency power source.  
Never loose power again! Choosing a Backup Generator**

*Backup generators can help you to survive power outages in relative comfort.*

## **Special Section: Preparing for Power Blackouts**

**Don't get left in the dark. Here's what you need to know for emergency power**

By Greg Pahl

Power failures can be a real pain—and downright dangerous—if you're not prepared. At the very least, blackouts will disable; heating and air-conditioning systems, freezers, refrigerators, water pumps and lighting. If the power outage lasts for any length of time, your home can become uncomfortable and possibly uninhabitable: Your water pipes may freeze and burst, the food in your freezer may thaw and spoil, or your sump pump may fail, flooding your basement. Any of these events can quickly become expensive. If a blizzard blocks roads and you're snowed-in during subzero temperatures, grid failure can even be life-threatening.

But you can make your home blackout-proof. Installing a **solar PV system** or a **wind generator** is the greenest option, letting you cut your ties to the fossil fuels and nuclear power that produce nearly all grid-based electricity. (For more on these options, see "Go Solar, Be Secure" at <http://www.motherearthnews.com> )

**Another possibility is buying a backup generator**, usually powered by a conventional internal combustion engine. Used with or without renewable energy, a backup generator can eliminate the headaches of long-term power outages.

In 1985, I lived at the tail end of along electric distribution line in rural Vermont. One January night, a severe ice storm hit and the electricity went off, as usual. But this time it did not return hours later, or even the next day. The morning after, I surveyed the damage outside—our electric lines were lying on the ground across the driveway and the power line right-of-way had disappeared in a tangle of bent, ice-coated trees. The utility company's crews were overwhelmed by the damage. We went without electric service for a week.

Fortunately, we had a woodstove and a backup generator. The generator powered a few lights, the refrigerator and a television. Most importantly, it kept the heated, automatic waterers for the 75 sheep in the barn from freezing.

## **Choosing a Backup Generator**

### **Here's one backup generator system and its features, power system sizes and options.**



### **Kohler Generators and Accessories**

Why Do you Need an Automatic Backup Generator System?

Why Choose a Kohler Generator?

Which System is Right for You?

8.5-30RES Residential Natural Gas or Propane Generator

RZ and RZG Residential Natural Gas or Propane Generator

Residential Diesel Generators

Transfer Switches

### **Why Do you Need an Automatic Backup Generator System?**

Your home is a busy place. And a commercial-grade KOHLER generator keeps that rhythm going by providing dependable protection during unexpected power outages. Available with 8.5 to 100kW output capabilities, KOHLER generators provide worry-free emergency power to support your electrical needs for days, or even weeks.

A backup generator is permanently installed outdoors, much like an air-conditioning unit is. The generator operates on your home's existing fuel source - whether that's natural gas or liquid propane (LP). In the event of a utility grid power outage, a Kohler backup generator system can provide all the clean, quiet, backup power your family needs to be safe and comfortable.

The Kohler automatic standby power system features the:

- Generator
- Battery Charger
- Transfer Switch
- Distribution Panel

### **Why Choose a Kohler Generator?**

- **More Powerful Performance:** KOHLER advanced PowerBoost™ technology allows the 12 kW generator to manage more power than the competition's 15kW- -the Kohler 12kW can start a typical central air conditioner while running more appliances in your home
- **Safer Power For Sensitive Electronics:** Poor power quality can damage your prized equipment. KOHLER generators provide the cleanest power available—

meeting the strict standards for utility power. Don't risk your expensive electronics with anything less!

- Available with 8.5 to 100kW output capabilities and higher, KOHLER generators provide worry-free emergency power to supply your total electrical needs for days, or even weeks. And unlike portable generators that require refueling every few hours, KOHLER backup power systems are fueled by a permanent LP or natural gas connection. No hassle and no worries.

**Basic Features:**

- Fueled by LP or natural gas
- Attractive, weather-resistant enclosures
- Polymer base eliminates the need for a concrete mounting pad, reducing installation time and cost.
- Fuel and electrical connections through the enclosure wall eliminate the need for stub-ups through the bottom.
- Reliable
- All KOHLER generator sets and components are prototype tested, factory built and production tested.
- Quiet Operation - Weather tight enclosures filter engine noise (65 db(A)) and provide protection from the elements.

**Which System is Right for You?**

Homes are different. Personal needs are different. We offer a variety of power system sizes and options to fit any requirement. To select the KOHLER generator that's right for you, use the sizing chart below to estimate your power needs. Of course, your needs may vary due to the size of your appliances, so be sure to check the manufacturer's documentation for actual power requirements. The best way to determine your power needs is to consult with Fire Mountain Solar. We can analyze the actual electrical load for your home and then specify the proper KOHLER residential backup system.

<b><u>Electrical Requirement</u></b>	<b><u>8.5 kW</u></b>	<b><u>12 kW</u></b>	<b><u>15 kW</u></b>	<b><u>30 kW</u></b>	<b><u>35+ kW</u></b>
Furnace Fan	X	X	X	X	X
Refrigerator/freezer	X	X	X	X	X
Sump Pump	X	X	X	X	X
Lighting	X	X	X	X	X
Well Pump	X	X	X	X	X
TV/Radio	X	X	X	X	X
Computer	X	X	X	X	X
Home Ventilation Fan		X	X	X	X
Garage Door Opener		X	X	X	X
Electric Range			X	X	X
Water Heater			X	X	X

Security System			X	X	X
Central Air System			X	X	X
Washing Machine			X	X	X
Microwave Oven				X	X
Clothes Dryer				X	X
Dishwasher				X	X
Vacuum Cleaner				X	X
Toaster Oven				X	X
Humidifier					X
Wine Cellar					X
Extensive Power Requirements					X
<p>*Due to the cycling nature of many of these devices, any KOHLER generator you select may not run all of the appliances simultaneously. Check the manufacturers' specifications for actual power requirements. Consult a Kohler Power Systems Professional for your exact residential power system requirements. Professional installation required.</p> <p>**The new KOHLER 12 kW generator is the only generator in its class powerful enough to start and run a typical 4-ton (48,000 BTU) central air conditioner in the event of a power outage. Until now, a 17 kW or larger generator was required to run central air along with all other major appliances.</p>					

\*\*\*\*\*This information is provided to you for your consideration in installing a “**Back-Up**” power supply unit, but we suggest that you study many units and interview several licensed installers and find out the suggestive operation costs of each unit before purchasing. Check with your local real estate professional, and find out how these units will figure in with the value of your home when you do decide to sale.

**If you choose to use a gasoline backup generator, Do Not Operate the Unit inside the home and/or an enclosed room. These units produce carbon monoxide and the fumes will KILL! Operate this type of unit outside of the house or with above average exterior vented air! These units have a will KILL if not used correctly.**

*Ron truly believes, "Professional and Quality Service is not Expensive, It's Priceless, and Ron clients deserve nothing less!"*

With this said, we offer you a *wonderful day*,

*Ron PHidalgo*

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**Visit [www.RonSellsAlabama.Com](http://www.RonSellsAlabama.Com) for much information on real estate, mortgages and "The Central Alabama River Region" and "The Montgomery Tri-County Area." When you're ready to search and view real estate, Call Ron @ Saunders Realty, 334.546.1410 or Toll Free 1.866.508.3535**

**Or you may email Ron and ask him to call you, please give appropriate times for Ron to return your call!**



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Ron can also assist you with finding the mortgage plan that best suits your needs. We work hard to obtain your trust and work tirelessly to help you reach your goals.

