

# Free Generator Advice

- 1) Get at least a 2000 watt generator. 4000 watts is better and if you intend to power things like the kitchen range, water heater and dryer you will need a 240 volt model. Most people want a generator to provide light. This is not an issue because a few LED fixtures will light up the whole house and consume less than 100 watts. The BIG issue is the power draw to start motors in the refrigerator, furnace, etc.
- 2) Get a generator with a big gas tank - at least 4 gallons. Otherwise you will spend a LOT of time gassing it.
- 3) You can power your house in two ways – use 12 gauge drop cables or install a generator transfer switch - an electrical connection box that installs next to your main panel. You plug the 240 volt generator cable into it, flip some switches, and voila, house circuits are powered up! I paid about \$300 for the GenTrans, got a permit and installed it myself in an afternoon. It powers six circuits in the house. The expense seemed like a lot when I put it in, but after four days without power it seemed trivial.
- 4) Keep a LOT of treated gas on hand. After the Hanukah Eve storm I went through 28 gallons in four days running a 4000 watt generator intermittently. You MUST treat stored gas with Sta-Bil and change it out every year. When you are done with your generator I suggest shutting off the gas and letting it run dry. This gets most of the gas out of the carburetor. If you leave untreated gas in your carburetor for more than a few months it will leave deposits that will make it impossible to start
- 5) You need to shut down the house furnace when you refuel the generator, otherwise it will overheat. To do this, drop the thermostat below the room temperature. The gas will shut off, and a few minutes later the blower will shut off after it has cooled the furnace down. Then shut off the generator and fuel it.
- 6) Get a generator with wheels. It is a lot easier to handle.
- 7) Keep a supply of spare fuel filters and spark plugs.
- 8) Get a Mr. Funnel. This is important. It will filter out water and junk.
- 9) Do not even consider tripping the main breaker and back-feeding the system through an outlet using a reverse wired plug. This is a proven way to murder a lineman, and the utility company has no mercy or compassion for people that do it.
- 10) Some generators work on natural gas. This is great unless an earthquake takes out the gas line.