

Considering A Generator?

Whether making a cup of coffee or settling in for a movie night, there's nothing quite like the feeling of security that comes with being in a comfortable, well-lit home. However, power outages can impact our overall quality of life. When power is lost for extended periods, loss of food, comfort and, in some cases, medical devices, are real concerns. A generator can save lives by powering medical equipment, keeping the house comfortable and reducing food spoilage. Although South River EMC takes great effort to keep the energy flowing, we cannot guarantee uninterrupted service.

There are three types of generators: portable, inverter, and standby generators. What size do you need? Make a list of items that you want to power and calculate the wattage of each to determine the size generator needed. An electrician or generator company can help with these estimates.

Portable

Portable generators are most affordable costing \$300-\$2,000 for 2,000-10,000 watt units. This type of generator is good for powering a few appliances, not the whole home. When the

power goes out, simply place the generator in the yard and start it.

Inverter

Another portable option is an inverter generator for people who want the cleanest, quietest, and most fuel-efficient operation. Inverters use gasoline and they speed up or slow down, depending on how much power is needed, which is the key to their efficiency. Inverters from 1,000-7,000 watts sell for \$500-\$5,000. Ethanol-free gas can be used to avoid carburetor or fuel issues.

Whole House/Standby

A whole house or standby generator typically has an automatic transfer switch that spontaneously turns the generator on when it senses a loss of utility power. Standby generators are larger, stationary and prewired to supply power to most, or all, of the home. These generators typically use propane or natural gas and are safer to operate than portable generators. Standby generators require professional wiring from the transfer switch to the sub-panel. A 20,000-watt standby generator can cost around \$20,000.



Advise Guy Robby Talton

If you use a generator, remember to perform regular maintenance and test monthly to assure they are ready when needed. It is also imperative that you follow all safety instructions carefully. If you are interested in a financing option, Electel Credit Union offers low-interest, fixed-rate loans designed to finance residential upgrades, including generators. You can also make your ElecTel loan payments through your South River EMC electric bill. For more information on the Energy Efficient Loan Program visit electelccu.org or call 1.800.849.5600.

South River EMC Communicator



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