amazon.com Generator Wattage Worksheet

When calculating the "size" of generator you need, there are two key considerations: Continuous Power and Peak Power

Continuous Power (or running power)
is the wattage required for operation of your appliances under normal load. The more appliances you want to be able run on generator power at a single time, the more wattage your generator will need to be able to produce.

Extra Peak Power (or startup power)
is the extra wattage required for appliances at startup or when they are running at their highest levels of power consumption. Your generator will need to be able to produce the peak power necessary to start the appliances and devices you plan to run. However, because it's rare that multiple appliances start at once, you probably need a generator that can handle the extra peak wattage required only for your most power-hungry appliance--not all your appliances at once.

1. **Using the worksheet on page 2, check all the appliances and devices that you would use at any given time.**
2. **Add up the "Continuous Wattage" for all the items you selected. Put this value in the "Required Continuous Wattage" box.**
3. **Find the highest "Extra Peak Wattage" figure for all the items in your list. Put it in the "Highest Peak Wattage" box.**
4. **Add the values in the "Total Continuous Wattage" and the "Highest Peak Wattage" box. Put this sum in the "Required Peak Wattage" box**

Example Worksheet

Household Products	Continuous Wattage		Extra Peak Wattage
Light Bulb (multiply the wattage times the number of bulbs in your whole house)	60 (60 x 10=600)	✓	0
Refrigerator/Freezer	600	✓	2,100
Television	400		0
X-Box, Game Cube, Playstation	40		0
Microwave Oven 625 Watts	625		0
Microwave Oven 1,000 Watts	1,000		0
Dishwasher	1,500		1,500
Coffee Maker	1,000	✓	1,000
Electric Range (8-inch element)	2,100	✓	0
Radio	200		0
Toaster Oven	1,200		0
Oven	3,410	✓	0
Total Continuous Wattage	7,710		2,100 (Highest Peak Wattage)
			+
			7,710
Required Peak Wattage			9,810

Next Step

See specific product pages for technical specifications of any particular generator or transfer switch to make sure that it meets the needs you have identified here. If you have additional questions, call the Amazon.com Home Improvement customer service team at 866-876-8073, Monday through Friday, 7 a.m. to 7 p.m., Saturday 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. (CST).

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Wattage Reference Guide

Please note this is only an estimate and may be higher or lower than your actual power needs.

Household Products	Continuous Wattage	✓	Extra Peak Wattage
Coffee Maker	1000		0
Ceiling Fan	800		2,000
Dishwasher	400		0
Electric Range (8-inch element)	40		0
Home Theater System	625		0
Light Bulb (multiply the watts times the number of bulbs in your whole house)	60 (each)		0
Microwave Oven 1,000 Watts	1,000		0
Oven	3,410		0
Radio	100		0
Refrigerator/Freezer	600		2,100
Television	400		0
Toaster Oven	1,200		0
X-Box, Game Cube, Playstation	40		0
Heating/Cooling			
Air Conditioning (Central) 10,000 BTUs	1,500		3,000
Air Conditioning (Central) 24,000 BTUs	3,800		4,950
Air Conditioning (Window) 10,000 BTUs	1,200		1,800
Furnace Fan 1/4 Horsepower	600		400
Furnace Fan 1/2 Horsepower	875		1,475
Laundry			
Clothes Dryer	5,400		1,350
Iron	1,200		0
Washing Machine	1,150		2,250
Home Office			
Desktop Computer	800		0
Fax	250		0
Laptop Computer	600		0
Printer	950		0
Other			
Curling Iron	1,500		0
Garage Door Opener 1/2 Horsepower	875		2,350
Hair Dryer 1,250 Watts	1,250		0
Security System	500		0

Tools	Continuous Wattage	✓	Extra Peak Wattage
Electric Drill 3/8-inch, 4 Amps	440		600
Circular Saw 7-1/4-inch	1,400		2,300
Table Saw 10-inch	2,000		2,000
Router	600		1,500
Jig Saw	720		1,800
Air Compressor 1 Horsepower	1,500		3,000
Orbital Sander	600		1,800
Quartz Halogen Worklight 300 Watts	300		0

Landscaping Products	Continuous Wattage	✓	Extra Peak Wattage
Pressure Washer	1,200		2,400
String Trimmer	600		900
Chainsaw	1,200		1,200
Lawn Mower	1,400		2,920
Edger	960		1,400

Other Products/Tools Not Included Here	Continuous Wattage	✓	Extra Peak Wattage

Total Continuous Wattage _____ _____ **Highest Peak Wattage**

\+ _____

Required Peak Wattage _____

If you have items that are not on the list, check the appliance, the product manual, or the manufacturer's Web site for the device's continuous and peak wattage.