

Frequently Asked Questions

Generac Emergency Standby Generators



1. How long does it take to install a Residential Emergency Home Standby generator?

The air-cooled 7 kW, 12 kW and 15 kW, which comes equipped with a comprehensive installation kit, can take as little as 4 hours to install. The liquid-cooled 15 kW to 45 kW generators will normally take up to 14 hours over 2 days. Air-cooled units are typically installed on a composite mounting pad. Liquid-cooled units, because of their additional weight, must be installed on a stronger mounting surface. The increased installation time is necessary to pour a concrete slab and allow for it to set properly. If the installer can source a prefabricated mounting pad that will meet the increased weight requirements of a liquid-cooled unit, the installation time will be reduced accordingly.

The length of time is based on a typical application. It does not apply to applications that require extended runs of conduit or gas piping or the placement of a unit far from the incoming gas or electrical service.

2. How do you size a generator?

The only completely accurate way is to have an electrician apply an amp meter to the circuits or appliances that are being chosen to operate under emergency backup power. It is recommended that the amp draw be measured as the appliance “starts up” when that appliance used an inductive or resistive motor. You may also refer to our air-cooled models that offer 8, 10 or 12 circuits.

3. How much fuel does a Residential Emergency Home Standby generator use?

	7 KW Air-Cooled	12 KW Air-Cooled	15 KW Air-Cooled	15 KW Liquid- Cooled	20 KW Liquid- Cooled	25 KW Liquid- Cooled	40 KW Liquid- Cooled
Natural Gas cu ft/hr	105	185	240	277	369	441	735
LP Gas cu ft/hr (gal/hr)	44.1 (1.2)	79.0 (2.17)	102.3 (2.8)	110 (3.1)	143 (4.0)	175 (4.8)	310 (8.8)

Figures are fuel consumption values at 100% (full) load. It is unlikely that the generator would run at full load for an extended period of time. Therefore, your consumption would decrease accordingly.

4. The generator that I've chosen has a 100-amp automatic transfer switch. What if I have 200-amp service in my home?

It is always recommended that emergency circuits be isolated by the emergency load center. An isolated sub-panel will prevent the possibility of the generator becoming overloaded. Thus, the system will respond automatically.

5. Will 200-amp automatic transfer switches be available for the air-cooled models, and the 15 kW and 20 kW liquid-cooled Residential Emergency Home Standby generators?

No. It is not electrically necessary. The outputs of these generators are safely carried with the 100-amp automatic transfer switch.

6. What is the expected life of the engine?

A properly maintained engine should provide over 20 years of operation under emergency standby conditions. Keep in mind that the units are not intended to provide continuous power (24 hours a day, 365 days a year).

7. What is the cost of a service/maintenance contract?

The cost will be determined by the installing dealer, based upon what service the customer requires for the system. Further, the cost will vary based on hourly labor rates in different parts of the country.

8. How much oil does the engine crankcase hold?

Air-cooled: 7 kW, 12 kW and 15 kW – 1.7 qt. Liquid-cooled: 15 kW, 20 kW and 25 kW – 4.0 qt. Liquid-cooled: 45 kW – 4.5 qt.

9. What type of oil is recommended?

The recommended oil for the 7 kW, 12 kW and 15 kW air-cooled units is 10W-30 temperatures above 20° F. Use 5W-20 or 5W-30 for temperatures below 20° F. After the first oil change, all-season 5W-30 synthetic oil may be used. API Service Class SG, SH or SJ should be used in all cases.

The recommended oil for the liquid-cooled units is 15W-40. All oil should be SAE rated high detergent oil that meets API Service Class SF requirements for gasoline engines.

10. Propane tanks are usually rated by pounds. Is there a conversion that can be applied to the fuel consumption numbers?

Yes. For general conversion, propane weighs 4.24 pounds per gallon. 1 lb. = 8.58 cu. ft.. 1 gallon = 36.39 cu. ft..