

Generators: 3 Reasons to Use a SMALL One!



There are three good reasons for using a small generator:

- 1) It costs less to purchase than a larger generator.
- 2) It uses less gasoline per hour, so you get more hours of electricity from the same amount of gasoline.
- 3) You need to store less gasoline for your generator.

Why gasoline? No one makes small diesel generators. Propane-powered small generators are very expensive. That leaves gasoline for power.

The problem is storing enough gasoline. Obviously a big generator uses more fuel than a small one. So, you can run a small generator longer on the same amount of fuel. Fuel storage is covered in another Do-It-Yourself Tip. Check it out.

The yellow generator on the left is an old McCulloch 1200-watt generator powered by a 3 horsepower Briggs and Stratton engine. Noisy, and the 120-volt AC output isn't good enough electricity to power a laptop. Does lights, though.

The blue generator is a Chinese 1,000-watt generator with a two-stroke engine. You have to mix oil with the gas. A mess! It's cheap to buy, and where you get parts, no one is sure. Don't try to run a laptop with it.

The red generator is a Honda EU1000i, which will power your laptop. It produces a steady 900 watts. It sips gas at 6/10 of a quart per hour, or 6.7 hours per gallon. It's expensive, reliable, and worth the money.

A little generator will not power your house. It won't power your electric stove, refrigerator, freezer, big microwave, air conditioning, or electric furnace. It will power lights, fans, a TV, a laptop, and a small microwave - up to 900 watts' worth. Just add up the wattage of the things you want to power. Then set up the generator with the exhaust going outdoors. Get a good 12-gauge extension cord (really thick) and put a multiple-outlet tap on the end. Bring only the cord indoors.

DON'T RUN A GENERATOR INDOORS. It uses up oxygen from the air, and so do you. By the time the generator stalls from lack of oxygen, you'll probably be dead - if carbon monoxide poisoning doesn't kill you first.