

### ***Can I install a stand-by generator myself?***

No! The Prince Edward Island Electrical Inspection Act requires that a licensed electrician install stand-by generators. Electrical codes require that a stand-by generator connected to your household electrical system must be controlled by a transfer switch. A licensed electrician must do this for you to ensure it is properly installed. A wiring permit is required to do this work. This switch ensures your power is only delivered from either the utility supply or from the generator – **NEVER FROM BOTH AT THE SAME TIME.**

An approved installation by a qualified electrician will prevent your generator from becoming a fire hazard when the utility power is restored, and it also prevents Maritime Electric lineworkers from being electrocuted when service is restored to your home.

### ***What other safety issues should I keep in mind?***

Never operate a stand-by generator in your house, basement or garage. The exhaust fumes are deadly. Always run a generator outside.

Do not cover an operating generator. The internal combustion engine of a generator requires unrestricted air flow around it to properly stay cool. If a generator overheats, it will fail.

Never expose a generator to rain or moisture. Like all electrical devices, it must remain dry at all times.

Never fuel a generator while it is running. This could start a fire.

Keep children away from generators at all times. Many engine parts are hot during operation. Severe burns may result if touched.

### ***How much fuel could I expect to burn?***

An efficient 3,500-watt gasoline generator typically consumes 2.2 litres of fuel per hour at full load. That means you would need about 20 litres of fuel to operate a generator for 9 hours. Remember, when there is an electricity service interruption, gas pumps may not be working as they require electricity to operate. A generator operating only a few hours uses a considerable amount of fuel.

### ***What size generator do I need?***

The size of the stand-by generator you need depends on your energy requirements. Most emergency power needs can be satisfied with a stand-by generator of 2,500 to 5,000 watts.

### ***How much power do different appliances require?***

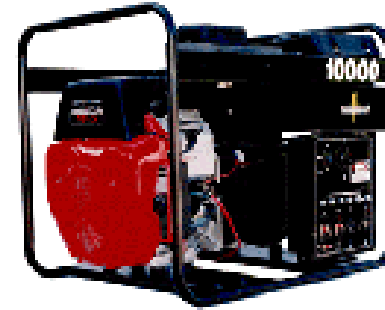
The following chart shows the power requirements of typical household appliances “Start-up” is the momentary large wattage required to engage an electric motor. “Running Watts” is the normal operating level.

| Appliance                | Start-Up Watts | Running Watts |
|--------------------------|----------------|---------------|
| Sump Pump                | 1,400          | 750           |
| Washing Machine          | 2,000          | 500           |
| Furnace Blower           | 1,400          | 350           |
| Well Pump                | 2,000          | 750           |
| Refrigerator             | 2,500          | 500           |
| Oil Burner               | 3,100          | 260           |
| TV                       | -              | 200           |
| Microwave                | -              | 1,000         |
| VCR                      | -              | 40            |
| Radio                    | -              | 30            |
| 2-Slice Toaster          | -              | 1,150         |
| Space Heater (portable)  | -              | 1,500         |
| Water Heater (40 gallon) | -              | 3,000         |

A licensed electrician will be able to answer specific questions on which generator is best suited for your needs.

***Where can I find out more about stand-by generators?***

For more information on the proper installation of stand-by generators, including the proper size and type of generator you need, contact your local electrical inspector or licensed electrical contractor.



**A Guide to Stand-by Generators**

Some Prince Edward Islanders have purchased or are thinking about purchasing stand-by generators. Maritime Electric receives many requests for information about stand-by generators.

This brochure has been prepared to answer some of these safety concerns and answer commonly asked questions about generators.

When properly installed and operated, a stand-by generator can provide an adequate supply of short-term electricity. If not properly installed and operated, stand-by generators pose a potential safety hazard to both customers and lineworkers.