

DON'T GET LEFT IN THE DARK



Even during a power outage, your family's peace of mind is never in doubt when you have a propane standby generator.

Life is more connected now than ever before. A 2015 New Jersey Institute of Technology survey found that 45 percent of Americans work from home, and market research suggests North American homes have an average of 13 connected devices each. Smart thermostats are among them, with the North American market doubling from 2014 to 2015, and about 400,000 electric cars are parked in American garages. So what happens when the grid that powers our electronically charged lifestyles fails?

JD Power & Associates estimates that the average extended power outage lasts eight hours, but severe weather could extend outages by days or weeks. Research from energy reporting agency Inside Energy found that between 2000 and 2014, the average number of reported power outages per

year doubled every five years. The power grid is aging, severe weather is happening more frequently, and our homes and their contents are in jeopardy.

Enter propane. Whether it gives you the convenience of charging your phone or opening the garage door during a bad storm, or helps salvage the food in your refrigerator and keeps your sump pump running during an extended power outage, a standby generator can be your propane-powered lifesaver.

POWER WHEN YOU NEED IT

A permanent propane standby generator is at the ready to keep the home running smoothly under any conditions. The concept is simple. The generator connects to a transfer switch that is, in turn, connected to the home's electrical panel. When the transfer switch loses grid power, it presses the generator into service. Fueled by the propane line, the generator powers the electrical panel until the transfer switch identifies that grid power has been restored.

When choosing a generator for your home, talk with your installer about what you need your equipment to do while the power is out.

- Generators come in a variety of sizes, measured in kilowatts [kw].
- Smaller units around 8 kw can power essential circuits, such as a few lights, the sump pump, refrigerator, and HVAC.
- A full-size unit could handle 35 kw or more, letting your entire house operate as usual from top to bottom.
- Weigh your needs with your budget, as prices rise the more kilowatts you add.

PROPANE OUTLASTS THE ALTERNATIVES

Installed on a slab outside the house, standby generators are about the size of an air conditioner, and offer a number of benefits over alternative options.

- Gas-powered generators are built to withstand severe weather and engage automatically.
- Propane doesn't degrade over time, unlike diesel or gasoline, making it an ideal standby power fuel.
- Homeowners never have to worry about going outside to start or refuel the generator in the midst of a dangerous storm.

If you're thinking of getting a portable generator to power your home in a storm, think again. These units are best for small jobs and outdoor projects — not powering a whole house — and must be ventilated

well to avoid carbon monoxide buildup. They also require manual refueling, and if power is out because of a major storm, area gas pumps might also be out of power.

Another power option gaining attention is battery-powered home backup. In homes with these systems, large batteries charge via the grid, then kick on when the power goes out. However, battery backups cannot always deliver power at the rate that connected appliances demand it. Propane-powered generators produce steady power for the duration of an outage, but battery systems might only deliver power to certain circuits at any given time.

A properly sized propane standby generator can be installed with a new construction home or as a retrofit to an existing home, making their convenience available to everyone. Next time stormy skies darken your doorstep, your safely protected home will be an oasis of power in a blacked-out neighborhood.



A power outage costs a family an average of

\$1,250

FINANCIAL COSTS OF POWER OUTAGES:

- Spoiled food.
- Eating at restaurants.
- Damage to electronics and homes.
- Lost wages from home businesses.
- Hotels and temporary relocation costs.

EMOTIONAL COSTS OF POWER OUTAGES:

- Stress on families.
- Financial demands.
- Dangerous excesses of heat or cold.
- Lack of phones, email, and communication.
- Inability to cook.
- Loss of showers and bathrooms.