

How to select the ASTRA KOREA Generator



Selecting a Size

Before buying, you'll need to determine how much power you'll require from a generator, which is rated in watts.

- Decide which appliances you can't live without. Refrigerators, microwaves, furnace fans, lights, televisions, and radios head many people's necessity lists.
- Calculate how much electricity those items need by checking each product's faceplate or owner's manual.
- Find the total wattage of all your necessary appliances. The generator you buy needs to deliver at least that much wattage--and preferably a bit more.



Warning:

Appliances with motors (such as freezers, refrigerators, and furnace fans) require additional wattage to start. A 150-watt refrigerator, for instance, could require an additional 1,200 watts when firing up.

If you plan to start a group of motors simultaneously, you'll need a generator with the capacity to supply the necessary starting current for the total wattage. Without sufficient starting power, motors can overheat, burn out, or trip the generator's circuit breaker.

Noise

Earplugs, anyone? With generators, noise is an issue. Some purr, while others roar. If peace and quiet is a priority, consider the generator's noise level, listed in decibels.

- The low end of the noise range measures 50-60 decibels.
- If a generator rattles at 80 decibels, you might have to raise your voice to be heard. That may be fine at a job site, but frustrating in a tent.

Encased motors and antivibration devices can bring the decibels down, but of course they cost a little more.



☑ Weight

How portable is it? Some generators come with wheels and move easily, others have handles and must be lugged around. So check the weight of the model you are considering, and remember that a generator without wheels can be awkward, if not impossible, to carry very far.

☑ Fuel Tank vs. Run Time

Before buying, find out how long the generator can run on a full tank of gas. As a rule, the more powerful the generator, the worse the gas mileage. Between models, the run time can range from 2 to 10 hours. Fuel tank size varies, too, so check the tank capacity. This will give you an idea of how often you'll have to stomp out in the night, uncap the gas can, and refill the tank. Of course, you face a tradeoff: a bigger fuel tank guarantees a bulkier, heavier generator.

☑ Start Your Engines

When choosing a generator, consider the starting device--recoil or electric?

- The recoil method, featured on most inexpensive models, starts with a pull or two, much like a lawn mower.
- If you want the ease of flipping a switch, then a more expensive model, with an electric starter, is the way to go.



☑ Safety

In the wrong hands, a generator is a dangerous thing. Even the smallest generator produces electricity at levels high enough to cause property damage, injury, and death. Always make certain your manufacturer provides clear safety and user guidelines.

Wattage Chart		
Device	Running watts	Starting watts
Portable Fan	40	120
Radio	100	100
Refrigerator	150	1200
Television	160	160
Slow cooker	210	210
Laptop Computer	230	230
Dishwasher	250	540
Satellite Receiver	250	250
DVD Player	350	350
Blender	400	850
Printer	500	500
Coffee machine	600	600
Furnace Fan	700	1400
Desktop Computer	700	700
Garage Door Opener	720	1420
Washing Machine	1200	1200
Sump Pump	1200	2000
Microwave oven	1300	1300
Window AC Unit	1400	2200
Electric Frying Pan	1500	1500
Hairer Dryer	1800	1900
Electric Range	2100	2100
Hot Water Heater	4500	4500
Clothes Dryer	5400	6750