



# Hints For Homeowners

## Energy Matters

(NAPSA)—We live in a “plugged-in” society. Our lives are filled with dozens of electronic devices and gadgets, not to mention the critical systems that keep our homes up and running. With our ever-growing dependence on electricity, the need for reliable backup power is more important than ever, especially for those who operate home-based businesses or people with medical needs.

### What To Do

Fortunately, even in the event of a power outage due to severe weather or other emergency, you do have options:

**1. A portable generator** is great for camping, tailgating or other situations where temporary power comes in handy. If used in a home setting, a portable generator can power a few items like a refrigerator or sump pump, but is not designed to power an entire home. A portable generator is manually operated and runs on gasoline, which means you have to fill it every few hours during a power outage. All electronic items must be plugged into the unit using properly rated extension cords and the unit must be kept outside to avoid carbon monoxide poisoning.

**2. A standby generator**, which many experts feel is the best option for homeowners or small businesses, permanently connects to your home, similar to a central air-conditioning unit. It runs on propane or natural gas and connects directly to existing fuel lines. When utility power is lost, a standby generator automatically turns on, typically within 10 seconds—you don’t have to be home to operate the unit. Depending on the size, a standby genera-



**A standby generator, like this one from Kohler, can automatically power an entire home during a power outage.**

tor can power an entire home or a few key systems or appliances.

“A standby generator is basically a power plant in your backyard,” said Ed Del Grande, a home improvement expert and host on the DIY Network. “No matter what Mother Nature brings, you can rest easy knowing you have access to safe, reliable power.”

### What To Look For

If you’re thinking about getting a standby generator, there are a few things you should look for:

- A commercial-grade engine for durability and clean, consistent power.
- An attractive design. The unit will be installed outside your home, so looks matter.
- An extended warranty. Look for a standby generator that is backed for a minimum of five years.

### Where to Learn More

Leading manufacturers like Kohler make it easy to research, size and price standby generators. You can find informational videos, sizing calculators and other helpful tools at [www.KohlerGenerators.com](http://www.KohlerGenerators.com).