

GENERATORS & RECREATIONAL VEHICLES



Event RV Rental

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DO I NEED A GENERATOR?



I have been in the RV business for the better part of 15 years. Questions about generators never seem to run out. People just getting into camping will ask me if they will need a generator. The answer is maybe.

If you will be using the camper in a place where there is adequate 30 amp power supply at all times you should not need a generator. If

you will be using your RV in a remote non electrified site you may need a generator if:

- You will need AC
- If you will need use of your 120V residential outlets
- If you have a supply of fuel for the generator
- If you feel your battery power will not be sufficient.
- If the place you are camping will allow generator use

What size & Type generator will I need? There are many manufacturers and style of generators. When choosing

a generator look at the wattage of the generator. Manufacturers will rate wattage in two ways, peak and continuous. This is important as you will want to make sure that the continuous wattage is enough to carry the load you will put on the generator. To calculate your load you will add up all of the Amperages of the appliances that will be plugged into the generator at one time. Then you will multiply the amperages x 120 for the volts needed. This will give you the continuous wattage necessary. An amperage guide is included to the right.

Special points of interest:

- **WATTS= AMPS X VOLTS**
- **EXAMPLE I WILL BE RUNNING MY AC (22 AMPS) IT IS 120 VOLTS**

$$22(\text{AMPS}) \times 120(\text{VOLTS}) = 2640 \text{ WATTS}$$

APPLIANCE	AMPS
Curling Iron	10
Air Conditioner	22
Electric Hot Water Heater	8
Microwave	14
Coffee Pot	9
Toaster	10
Hair Dryer	10
TV	4
Electric Frying Pan	10
Iron	10
Food Processor	6
Crock Pot	10
Computer (Desktop)	4.5
Hand Vacuum	5
Floor Vacuum	10

Different Types of Generators

Digital inverter generators produce consistent safe band of power to protect sensitive electrical devices such as computers and electronics. Digital sine wave output is the most efficient. The *digital inverter generator* will conserve approximately 40-50% of fuel over a standard Power Generator. They are generally more quite. A Honda Digital Inverter Generator like the EU3000is will run at 56db noise. Unfortunately these generators are usually the most expensive. This is one area where you get what you pay for. Prices range from \$900 - \$2500. The Honda EU3000is is my favorite for around \$1800

Portable Generators: These types of generators will usually be much cheaper to purchase. The power lacks consistency and wattage can vary greatly based on the running RPM and load on the unit. They are noisy and can use up much more fuel than the digital inverter styles Prices range from \$300 - \$800