



# Top rated home backup generators

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Having a backup generator sometimes is the best way to stay prepared through storms or unexpected outages, but there are so many to choose from, you may be thinking, "where do I start?" We've done the work for you by ranking dozens of backup or standby generators based on factors like pricing, warranty, noise level, energy output, load management and high-temperature shutdown.

Here are our top five picks for backup and standby generators.

We developed our list of the best backup generators by first identifying competitors that met basic criteria, then reviewing the 16 most widely available generators from that list and scoring them all based on 34 different attributes. We further pared our list down to the top five backup generators. Our ratings take into consideration factors like pricing, warranty, noise level, energy output, load management and high-temperature shutdown. All ratings are determined solely by our editorial team.

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Champion's 14-kW model provides the best of both worlds in terms of power and affordability. The model retails for about \$4,000 at Norwall Power Systems, placing it in the middle of price among the models we reviewed. Its energy output ranks favorably though other brands cross the 20 kW threshold.

What's great about this model is its battery is rated to operate in temperatures ranging from -22 to 104 degrees Fahrenheit. Though it has 14,000 watts of power, the aXis Load Management Module allows homeowners to choose which appliances they need to run and which appliances would be nice to run during an outage.

The Champion 12.5-kW model has all of the same features as the 14-kW model, just less power. You'd expect a little better price for a less powerful unit, but it retails for around \$3,700 at one retailer but can be found for as low as \$3,350.

Champion's 8.5-kW model will power essential home appliances and do so quietly. Its 59.5-decibel level ranked second among all the models we reviewed. At \$2,779, it's among the most affordable models we reviewed. Plus, it's still backed by a 10-year warranty. However, it doesn't come with a battery or with remote monitoring.

Generac is among one of the most respected generator manufacturers in the business, and its air-cooled standby generator maintains that high standard. This model is about the quietest out there for the amount of power it generates. Generac's air-cooled standby generator will power your whole house during a power



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outage.

Generac touts it as the lowest cost per kilowatt of any air-cooled standby generator, but it still retails for \$5,699 at The Home Depot. Of course, a higher-powered unit will cost more and it will consume more fuel than smaller models.

Generac's Guardian 3-Phase 20kW Automatic Standby Generator brings nearly the same power as its biggest models but it doesn't come with everything you might expect.

This model will power your entire house and you can monitor it while away from home. Generac generators have the ability to withstand 150 mph winds and offer best-in-class power. This model carries a \$4,881 price tag at Northern Tool, which makes it slightly cheaper than other Generac generators that provide slightly more power.

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