

Must-Run Loads Worksheet

List what must stay on during an outage, then size a generator or battery. Calculators: poweroutageplan.com/tools/

Step 1: List your loads

Load	Running W	Starting W	Hours on	Wh (W × hours)	Runs with others?

Find watts on the nameplate, with a plug-in meter, or in the wattage chart (use the upper end of a range).

Step 2: Generator size

A. Total running watts of everything on at once	
B. Largest start surge (starting – running)	
Standard minimum starting watts (A + B)	
C. Largest listed starting watts	
Conservative starting watts (A + C)	
Optional: add 20% headroom (your choice, not a requirement)	

Step 3: Battery (power station) size

D. Total Wh from Step 1	
Battery needed: $D \div 0.85$	
Power station continuous output must exceed A; surge must exceed A + B	

Step 4: Safety check

- Generator outdoors, more than 20 feet from windows, doors and vents.
- Never connect a generator to a wall outlet. A licensed electrician handles any permanent connection.
- Battery-backed CO detector on every level.
- Medical equipment: check your device's rating and ask your provider; this worksheet is not for life-support planning.