



An Extended Guide · No. 1246

# Choosing Your First One

---

A buyer's checklist  
for inverter generators

**Tech Made Simple — Service Made Personal**

[BillsHomeTech.com](http://BillsHomeTech.com) · (330) 200-8042 · Atwater, Ohio

Free & printable — share it with someone who needs it



Book a visit —  
[billshometech.com/book](http://billshometech.com/book)

## Hello, and welcome

If you've ever stood in a store aisle or scrolled a website staring at a row of generators, each one bristling with numbers and letters, and wondered how on earth to choose — this guide is for you. We'll pick your first one together, one plain-English step at a time.

I'm Bill, and I run Bill's Home Tech here in Portage County, Ohio. I've spent more than 30 years helping folks get comfortable with their technology — patiently, in plain language, and at their own pace. Think of this guide as me sitting at your kitchen table, walking through it with you one step at a time.

This is the buyer's guide. We'll walk a friendly checklist — the right size, the safety features that matter, fuel, outlets, how you'll move it and start it, and how to buy from a place you can trust. By the last page you'll be able to read any listing and know what matters and what's just noise, whether you live in town or out in the country on a well.

You do not have to read this all at once, and you certainly don't have to memorize it. Skip to whatever you need, keep it handy, and know that a real person is only a phone call away.

### ★ How to use this guide

Each page stands on its own. Read one, take what's useful, and come back for the next when you're ready. If a step ever feels fuzzy, that's on my writing — not on you — and you can always call me at (330) 200-8042.

## Shopping without the overwhelm

Buying a generator can feel like standing in front of a wall of boxes, all shouting numbers at you. The trick is to shop for your home, one feature at a time.

Stores and websites want you to compare on the biggest number — the most watts, the flashiest list of features. But the right generator isn't the most impressive one on the shelf. It's the one that fits the handful of things you need to keep running, fits the spot in your yard, fits the hands that have to move it, and fits your budget.

So we're going to turn the whole thing around. Instead of starting with the products, we start with **you**: what you want to power, where you'll set it up, who has to wheel it out in a storm, and how you'd like to pay. Then we walk a simple checklist of features, and your answers quietly point you to the right unit.

This entire guide is that checklist, roughly one feature per page. You don't need to be handy or technical. I'll keep every term plain, and I promise that by the end none of those numbers on the box will be a mystery. If a page ever feels like a lot, skip to the printable checklist near the back and call me — we can do the whole thing together over the phone.

### ✓ Take this guide shopping

There's a tear-out shopping checklist a few pages from the end. Fold it in your pocket or set it by the computer, and work down it as you look. It keeps you steering the purchase instead of the salesman steering you.

## First and biggest: the right size

Everything on the checklist starts here — matching the generator's power to the short list of things you truly want to keep running. Get this right and the rest falls into place.

The honest surprise is that most homes need a good deal less than folks fear. In an outage you're not running the whole house at once; you're keeping a few essentials going — the refrigerator, some lights, the phones and internet, maybe the furnace blower. Size for that short list, leave a sensible cushion of headroom, and stop there.

There is one wrinkle worth knowing before you shop. Anything with a motor — a fridge, a furnace fan, a pump — needs a brief extra **gulp** of power the instant it kicks on, more than it uses while running. So a generator is sized to cover your steady total plus the single biggest of those start-up gulps. You don't stack every surge; motors rarely start at the very same moment.

Resist the pull to buy the biggest one "to be safe." An oversized generator is heavier to wheel out, drinks more fuel when the storm has the gas stations closed, and costs more up front for watts you'll never use. Right-sized with headroom is the smarter, easier-to-live-with buy every time.

One size fact matters for this whole guide: the small, quiet units everyone pictures put out **120 volts only**, which is plenty for in-town essentials. A well pump or whole house circuits push you up to a larger 120/240-volt unit — more on that ahead.

### ★ Make your list before you shop

The single best thing you can do before spending a dime is walk your home and jot down the few things you'd truly want in an outage. There's a full sizing guide in this series that turns that list into a number — or call me at (330) 200-8042 and we'll do it together in ten minutes.

## Put a carbon-monoxide shutoff near the top

Of every feature on a modern generator, this is the one I most want you to insist on. It's worth more than any amount of extra watts.

A generator's engine gives off carbon monoxide — an invisible, odorless gas that can harm you before you ever notice it. A **carbon-monoxide shutoff** is a small sensor built into the generator that watches the air around the unit and automatically shuts the engine off if the gas starts to build up nearby.

When you shop, look for a label saying the unit meets the **PGMA G300** or **UL 2201** safety standard. Those are the two badges that tell you the shutoff has been tested and built to a real specification, not just tacked on. Safety officials credit these features with preventing the large majority of generator carbon-monoxide deaths — that's how much they matter.

Here's the part I never let anyone forget: the shutoff is a **seatbelt, not a free pass**. It is a wonderful backup for a bad moment, but it does not make it safe to run the generator any closer to the house, in the garage, or under a porch. You still run it outdoors only, at least 20 feet away, exhaust pointed away, every single time. There's a whole page on that coming up, because it's the rule that never bends.

### ! A backup, on top of the real rule

Buy the shutoff feature and love it — but pair it with working carbon-monoxide alarms inside the house, on every level and near where you sleep. Two safety nets, not one. If either the alarm or the shutoff ever goes off, get everyone to fresh air first, then call 911.

## Which fuel: gas, propane, or dual?

Your generator has to eat something, and the choice shapes how you store it, how it starts in the cold, and how you ride out a long storm.

- **Gasoline** — the common one. Easy to find, powerful, and simple. The catch is that gas goes stale in a few months, so it needs a little care in storage — a splash of stabilizer and rotating your supply.
- **Propane** — the same tanks as your grill. It stores for years without going bad, burns cleaner, and is handy to keep on the shelf for emergencies. It gives a touch less power than gas and can be sluggish to start in bitter cold.
- **Dual-fuel** — runs on either one. If the gas stations are dry after a storm, you switch to a propane tank and keep going. That flexibility is a real comfort, for a small step up in price.

How to choose? If the generator will mostly sit and wait for outages, propane's long shelf life saves you the worry of stale gas. If you'll use it often — camping most weekends — gasoline is simple and easy. And a dual-fuel unit lets you have it both ways, which is why so many folks buying their first one land there.

Fuel is a big enough subject that it gets its own attention in this series: there's a fuel-and-runtime guide, and a separate dual-fuel guide, if you'd like to dig deeper before you decide. For now, just know which way you're leaning when you shop.

### ✓ Match the fuel to how you'll live with it

Ask yourself one question: will this generator mostly wait in the garage for the next storm, or will it come out often? "Mostly waits" leans propane or dual-fuel; "comes out often" leans gasoline. Either way, a dual-fuel unit keeps your options open.

## The right outlets on the front

The outlets on the front panel decide what you can actually plug in, so give them a good look before you fall for the rest of the machine.

Every inverter generator has regular **household plugs** — the same three-prong outlets as your walls. Those are what you run cords from to the refrigerator, a few lamps, the phone chargers, the internet box, and the TV. For most in-town homes, those household plugs are the whole story.

The outlet to watch for is the important one: a **120/240-volt twist-lock**, a round outlet you twist a matching plug into so it can't shake loose (you'll often see it called an L14-30). You need this only if you'll ever run a **240-volt well pump** or feed a whole house circuit through a transfer switch. If that's you, make sure the unit clearly offers 120/240-volt output — don't assume it, read for it.

You'll also see nice little extras: USB ports for charging phones straight from the panel, or a 12-volt outlet for a battery charger. Pleasant to have, but not deciders — never pick a generator for its USB ports over its watts or its safety.

### ! Two little units do not make 240 volts

It's a common and costly mix-up: joining two small 120-volt inverter units in parallel gives you more 120-volt power, never a 240-volt leg for a well pump. If a pump is on your list, you need a single, true 120/240-volt unit from the start. I'll help you tell them apart.

## Parallel-ready: start small, grow later

Here's a friendly feature that lets you buy modest now and add more power down the road if your needs change.

**Parallel** means joining two matching generators together with a special cord or kit so they act as one, sharing the work. The idea is lovely for a first-time buyer: get one small, quiet unit now, and if you later wish you had more power, buy a matching twin and link them. Together they make roughly the sum of their two outputs.

There are two nice perks beyond the power. Two lighter units are far easier to carry, one in each hand, than a single heavy machine. And for a small job you can run just one alone and save fuel, saving the pair for when you really need it.

The rules are simple. Both units must be **parallel-capable** (usually the same brand, often the same model), and you use the maker's own kit to link them. And here's the honest limit worth repeating: joining two 120-volt units gives you more 120-volt power, **never 240 volts**. So parallel is a way to grow your 120-volt capacity, not the answer for a well pump.

Who should care? Mostly in-town folks who want to start light and keep the door open to more later. There's a full parallel guide in this series if you'd like the details. If a well pump is on your list, skip this idea and buy a true 120/240-volt unit from the start.

### ✓ Only pay extra if you'll really use it

Parallel-ready is worth a little more only if you can genuinely picture buying that second unit someday. If you're quite sure one generator is all you'll ever want, spend the money on features you'll use every time instead.

## Can you actually move it?

The best generator in the world does you no good if it's stuck where you can't budge it. This page is about your back, not the spec sheet.

Weight climbs quickly as the watts go up. A small, suitcase-style unit is light enough for one person to lift by the handle. A larger one can be heavy enough to need real wheels and two hands — or a second person — to move at all. That's a fair trade for the extra power, but only if you plan for it.

So look past the shine to the practical bits: real **wheels** (the never-flat kind are best), a sturdy **folding handle**, and a shape you can actually grip. Then picture the real journey — from wherever it's stored, out the door, down any steps, across the yard to a safe spot at least 20 feet from the house — in the dark, in the rain, maybe on ice. That path is part of the purchase.

Most of all, think about who is home when the power goes out. If that might be you on your own, or a spouse who can't lift much, then how easily the generator moves matters more than almost any feature on the box. A slightly smaller unit you can always wheel out beats a bigger one that ends up stranded in the garage.

### ★ Try moving it before you buy it

In the store, don't be shy — try lifting or wheeling the display model. At home, we'll plan a spot and a path that work for whoever has to do it. If moving a heavy unit is a worry, call me at (330) 200-8042 and we'll factor that in from the start.

## How do you start it?

There are three common ways to bring a generator to life, and the easier ones are well worth a little extra if hands or shoulders aren't what they used to be.

- **Recoil pull cord** — a rope you pull firmly, just like a lawn mower. It's the simplest and least expensive, with nothing to charge, but it does take a good, sharp tug to catch.
- **Electric start** — you push a button and a small built-in battery cranks the engine for you. A real gift for anyone with a sore shoulder or less grip. The one thing to remember is to keep that little starter battery charged.
- **Remote start** — a key fob, or even a phone app, starts the unit from your porch. It's a pleasant luxury on premium models and genuinely handy in nasty weather.

Many units offer **both** recoil and electric start, which is the reassuring best of both worlds — push the button most days, and you've still got the pull cord if the battery ever runs flat. For a lot of my customers, electric start alone is reason enough to choose one model over another.

### ✓ If a mower cord is a struggle, choose the button

Be honest with yourself about pulling a starter rope in the cold. If that's hard on your shoulder now, it won't be easier during a storm — put electric start high on your list, and I'm glad to point you to units that have it.

## Runtime and tank size

How long a generator runs between fill-ups matters when a storm drags on — but the runtime numbers on the box need a little translating.

Runtime depends on two things: the size of the tank and how hard the generator is working. A light load sips fuel and runs a good long while; a heavy load empties the tank faster. Eco mode, which slows the engine to match a light load, stretches that runtime nicely and quiets things down at the same time.

Here's the translating part. Makers usually advertise their longest runtime at a very light load, so the hours you'll actually get with the fridge and furnace running will be shorter. Treat the number on the box as a best case, not a promise, and you won't be caught out.

A bigger tank means fewer trips out into the weather to refuel, which is genuinely welcome at two in the morning in a storm. But it also means more weight to move and more fuel to store safely. So don't chase the single longest runtime number — a modest tank, eco mode, and a little fuel stored ahead of time cover most folks comfortably.

### ✓ Store a little fuel so runtime is about refueling

The trick isn't a giant tank — it's keeping some fuel safely stored ahead of the storm so you can top up as needed. There's a fuel-and-runtime guide in this series that covers how much to keep and how to store it safely.

## If you live in town: city and suburb

Most of my customers here in town — in Kent, Ravenna, Streetsboro, Aurora — are on city water and city power, and that makes choosing a first generator refreshingly simple.

Because you're on city water, the water keeps flowing when the power's out — so the single most power-hungry load, a well pump, is off your list entirely. That means you can shop the **small, quiet** end of the range and be very happy: a suitcase-style inverter unit that handles the fridge, some lights, the furnace blower, and your phones, internet, and TV with room to spare.

In a close neighborhood, the quiet of an inverter unit is a real kindness — to you and to the folks next door. Lean toward the quieter models, keep eco mode in mind, and you'll get your essentials without turning your driveway into a job site. If you're in an HOA, it's worth a quick check of the rules on generators before you buy.

Give a thought to **storage**, too. Town homes and garages can be tight, and a smaller unit tucks away far more easily than a big one — one more reason the compact tier usually suits life in town.

### ! Apartments and condos are a special case

If you're in an apartment or condo with no safe outdoor spot well away from windows, a fuel generator usually isn't practical, and running one on a balcony or in a garage is dangerous. A quiet battery "power station" that charges indoors is often the better tool there. I can help you weigh it before you spend a thing.

## If you're in the country on a well

Out in the townships — Atwater, Rootstown, Deerfield, Palmyra — many of my customers are on a private well, and that one fact should steer your choice more than anything else on the shelf.

When you're on a well, the power going out means the water going out too — no faucets, no showers, no flushing until the pump can run again. So for most country homes the well pump is the whole reason to buy a generator, and it changes what you shop for from the very first minute.

### ! The honest truth about well pumps

Most home well pumps run on 240 volts, and the small, quiet inverter generators most folks picture put out only 120 volts — so they cannot run the pump at all. For a well you need a larger inverter unit with a 120/240-volt outlet, sized to your pump, and a proper way to connect it. Pairing two little units together does not fix this — two 120-volt units still only make 120 volts. I'll help you get the right size, and bring in a licensed electrician for the hookup.

What that means at the store: put **120/240-volt output** and **enough wattage for the pump** at the very top of your list, above quiet and above light weight. That points you to a larger unit with a proper 120/240-volt twist-lock outlet — sized to your pump's horsepower, which the sizing guide and a quick check of the pump will pin down. And the hookup itself runs through a transfer switch, which is a licensed electrician's job.

One more country-smart tip: if you already keep **propane** on hand for a grill, a heater, or a tank out back, a **dual-fuel** unit is a natural fit — you can run it on the propane you already store, and switch to gasoline when it's handy. And whatever you buy, keep a few days of drinking water stored and fill a bathtub before a big storm, because a generator that isn't running yet still can't make water.

## The safety talk: carbon monoxide

No matter which generator you choose, every one that burns fuel shares one safety rule that never bends — and it belongs right here in a guide about buying your first.

Every generator that burns gasoline or propane makes carbon monoxide, or "CO" — a gas you cannot see or smell. It is the one real danger with a generator, and it is completely avoidable. More people are hurt by running a generator in the wrong place than by anything else, so please read this page twice.

### Outside only — no exceptions

Never run a generator indoors, and that includes the garage, the basement, a shed, a carport, or a covered porch — even with the door up or a window open. CO pools and seeps into the house. The only safe place is outdoors, in the open air.

### At least 20 feet away, exhaust pointed away

Set the generator at least 20 feet from the house, and turn it so the exhaust blows **away** from any door, window, or vent. Don't tuck it against the wall to hide it or keep it dry — give it room to breathe and let the fumes drift off.

### Alarms are your safety net

Put working carbon-monoxide alarms on every level of your home and near the bedrooms, and use ones with a battery backup so they work when the power is out. Test them now, before storm season, not during it.

## A trusted brand, a real warranty, a real store

This page is about protecting your money — because a generator bought from the wrong place can end up costing you twice.

A **known brand** with a **real warranty** means that parts, help, and service will actually exist when you need them years down the road. Read the warranty before you buy — how long it lasts and what it covers — and send in the registration so it counts. A generator is a long-term friend; buy one whose maker will still be there for it.

Buy it from a **real store** or the maker's own website — somewhere with an address you could walk back into, or a phone number that rings a real person, if something goes wrong. That peace of mind is worth a little more than the rock-bottom price from a seller you've never heard of.

And please be careful online. Storm season brings out scammers with generators that don't exist, on marketplaces and unfamiliar websites, priced to make you hurry. A deal that seems too good to be true almost always is — especially when a storm has everyone anxious and shopping fast.

### ! Scam red flags — any one means walk away

Be on guard if the price is far below everyone else's; if you're asked to pay only by wire, gift card, or a cash app; if you're pushed to hurry before it's "gone"; if there's no real address or phone number; or if it's a brand you can't find anywhere else. Any single one of these, close the page. When in doubt, send me the listing and I'll look it over with you.

## New vs. used: a little caution

A used generator can be a fine bargain or a quiet heartbreak, and the difference is all in what you can check before any money changes hands.

The risks with used are real. Old fuel left sitting can gum up the carburetor, the engine may be more tired than it looks, the warranty is usually long gone, and older units often have **no carbon-monoxide shutoff at all**. And once in a while, sadly, a unit for sale isn't the seller's to sell.

If you do go used, protect yourself. Insist on seeing it **run under a real load** — plug something in, don't just watch it idle. Check that the oil is clean and full, ask honestly why they're selling, and prefer a local seller you could find again. If it won't start, or there's no paperwork, walk away without a second thought.

For a lot of folks buying their first generator, a **new entry-level unit** — with a fresh warranty and a modern CO shutoff — is worth more peace of mind than a fancier used one of unknown history. Don't let a low price talk you past the safety features that matter most.

### ★ Bring me along for a used one

If you find a used generator you like, I'm happy to look it over with you first, or to help you weigh it against a new entry-level unit. A few minutes checking before you buy can save a lot of trouble after — just call (330) 200-8042.

## Reading reviews without getting fooled

Reviews are genuinely useful if you read them the right way, and misleading if you don't. Here's how I sift them.

- **Read the middle first.** The three-star reviews are often the most honest, laying out both what's good and what's annoying about a unit.
- **Look for patterns, not one loud voice.** Ten different people mentioning hard starting means far more than a single furious post.
- **Prefer "verified purchase" reviews** from people who actually bought and used the thing.
- **Be wary of a flood of glowing five-stars** all posted in the same few days — those can be planted to pad the score.
- **Watch how the seller answers complaints.** A company that replies helpfully is a good sign for the day you need them.
- **Lean on recent reviews** over years-old ones, since models and quality change over time.

Above all, read for what matters to **you**: does it start easily, run quietly, hold up over the years, and is the company good to deal with? A gripe about some feature you'll never touch isn't your problem — let it go and keep reading.

### ✓ Skim with your own short list

Before you dive in, jot down the two or three things you care about most — easy starting, quiet, real runtime — then skim the reviews just for those. It keeps you from drowning in other people's opinions.

## Entry, mid, and premium — plainly

Without naming any prices, it helps to picture three broad tiers, and what your money generally buys as you step up through them.

**Entry** units are the smaller, simpler machines — often a recoil pull start, fewer outlets, and a modest tank. Some skip the carbon-monoxide shutoff, so check carefully before you buy. A good entry unit is perfectly fine for light in-town essentials, as long as it truly has the safety features.

**Mid-range** is the sweet spot for most folks. Here you generally pick up an electric-start button, a carbon-monoxide shutoff, more outlets, a quieter engine, and a better warranty — the comforts that make a generator genuinely easy to live with.

**Premium** units are the largest and quietest, and tend to add remote start, dual-fuel, 120/240-volt output, and long warranties. That's the tier for a well home, for frequent use, or for anyone who simply wants every convenience and can put it to work.

The honest guidance is this: don't overspend on premium features you'll never touch, but never skimp on the carbon-monoxide shutoff or a real warranty just to save a little. And remember — it's your must-run list, not the price tier, that truly decides the size you need.

## Matching the features to your home

Let's gather the whole checklist into one quick picture — what to put first depending on where and how you live.

| Feature                 | In town    | On a well      | Camping / RV |
|-------------------------|------------|----------------|--------------|
| Small and quiet         | Top pick   | Less vital     | Top pick     |
| Enough watts for a pump | Not needed | Must-have      | Not needed   |
| 120/240-volt outlet     | Skip it    | Must-have      | Skip it      |
| CO shutoff sensor       | Must-have  | Must-have      | Must-have    |
| Dual-fuel               | Nice       | Nice           | Nice         |
| Parallel-ready          | Nice       | Not the answer | Handy        |
| Light, with wheels      | Helpful    | Helpful        | Top pick     |

Read straight down your own column and you've got your shortlist. An in-town home leans small, quiet, and safe; a well home leans hard on wattage and 120/240-volt output; a camper leans light and easy to carry. Notice the one line that's a must-have in every single column: the carbon-monoxide shutoff.

★ Turn this into two or three real units

Tell me your situation — town or country, who moves it, what's on your must-run list — and I'll turn this chart into a short list of two or three specific units worth looking at. No guessing in the aisle. Just call (330) 200-8042.

## Common buying mistakes, gently avoided

A handful of honest mistakes catch first-time buyers again and again. Knowing them ahead of time saves real money.

### **Q: Buying the biggest one 'to be safe'**

Oversizing just costs you weight, fuel, and money for watts you'll never use. Size to your must-run list with a little headroom, and stop there.

### **Q: Chasing the highest peak-watt number**

The big "peak" or "starting" figure is only a brief burst. Match both the running and the starting numbers to your list — peak alone can fool you into the wrong unit.

### **Q: Skipping the carbon-monoxide shutoff to save a little**

This is the one feature I won't let you trade away. It's a life-safety backup; find the room in the budget for it, even if a plainer unit gets you there.

### **Q: Assuming two small units can run a well pump**

Joining two 120-volt units gives you more 120-volt power, never 240 volts. A well pump needs a single, true 120/240-volt generator.

### **Q: Grabbing a too-good deal from a stranger**

Storm-season scams thrive on urgency and rock-bottom prices. Buy from a real store or the maker's own site, where help and warranty actually exist.

### **Q: Forgetting that you have to lift it**

The perfect generator you can't move is the wrong one. Picture wheeling it out in the rain before you buy, not after.

## How I can help

Choosing your first generator is exactly the kind of thing that's much easier with a friendly second opinion before you spend the money — and it's one of my favorite ways to help folks around Portage County.

I'm Bill, and I run Bill's Home Tech right here in Portage County. I'm a tech-help person, not a power company and not a pushy salesman — I help folks pick the right gear, set it up, and feel confident using it. With generators, that means helping you choose a unit that fits your home and your budget, showing you how to run it safely, and getting your internet, TV, and devices happily back on once the power's flowing.

If your choice involves a 240-volt well pump or wiring the generator into your home, that hookup is a licensed electrician's job — I'm not an electrician myself. I'll help you pick the right unit, coordinate the electrician, and handle everything else, so you've got one friendly point of contact for the whole project.

### Three easy ways to get help

- **An in-home visit** — a flat \$99 first visit. I come to you, here in Portage County, and every visit is 30-day come-back-free.
- **Remote help** — a flat \$49 screen-share, up to two hours, for the things I can sort out without coming over (it's free for Support Plan members).
- **A Support Plan** — \$39 a month for folks who'd like me on call all year.

## Your printable shopping checklist

Tear this out and take it to the store, or keep it beside the computer. Work down it and you'll buy the right one the first time.

- ☐ Made your must-run list and know your rough target wattage (the sizing guide walks the numbers).
- ☐ The unit has a carbon-monoxide shutoff — look for a PGMA G300 or UL 2201 label.
- ☐ It has the outlets you need: household plugs, plus 120/240-volt if a well pump or a house circuit is on your list.
- ☐ You've chosen your fuel — gasoline, propane, or dual-fuel — and can store it safely.
- ☐ You can actually lift or wheel it, along the path from storage to a spot 20 feet from the house.
- ☐ The start type suits you — recoil pull, electric button, or remote.
- ☐ It's a trusted brand with a real warranty you've read.
- ☐ You're buying from a real store or the maker's own site, not a stranger online.
- ☐ You've read recent, honest reviews for how it starts, runs, and holds up.

Run down this list and you'll have done what most first-time buyers never do — chosen a generator that truly fits your home, your hands, and your budget. Nicely done.

## The short version

If you remember nothing else from this guide, remember these:

- Start with your must-run list, not the store shelf. The right size is the one that fits your few essentials, with a little headroom.
- Insist on a carbon-monoxide shutoff (a PGMA G300 or UL 2201 label). It's a seatbelt, not a free pass — still run it outside, 20 feet away.
- Match the outlets and fuel to your home: 120/240-volt output for a well pump, and dual-fuel if you already keep propane.
- Make sure you can move it and start it, and buy from a real store with a real warranty — never a too-good deal from a stranger.
- Not sure which one? Bring me your list before you buy, and I'm a phone call away.

## The Buyer's Checklist at a Glance

What to look for, and why it matters

|               | Look for                 | Why it matters            |
|---------------|--------------------------|---------------------------|
| Right size    | Fits your must-run list  | Not the biggest box       |
| CO shutoff    | Auto shut-off sensor     | The safety must-have      |
| Right outlets | Household plugs          | 120/240V for a well pump  |
| Fuel type     | Gas, propane, or dual    | Dual-fuel is a safety net |
| Can move it   | Wheels and a handle      | You can wheel it yourself |
| Buy smart     | A real store, a warranty | Not a stranger online     |

Match each line to your home, and the right generator picks itself.

# How to Shop, Step by Step

The same friendly order every time



Start with your home, not the shelf — the right unit falls out of the list.

## Budget Tiers, Plainly

What more money usually buys (no prices)

|           | Usually means               | A good fit for              |
|-----------|-----------------------------|-----------------------------|
| Entry     | Smaller, recoil start       | Light in-town essentials    |
| Mid-range | Electric start, CO shutoff  | Most homes — the sweet spot |
| Premium   | Dual-fuel, 120/240V, remote | Well homes, frequent use    |

Whatever the tier, never skip the CO shutoff or a real warranty.

# Which Features Matter Most for You?

Your home points to your must-haves

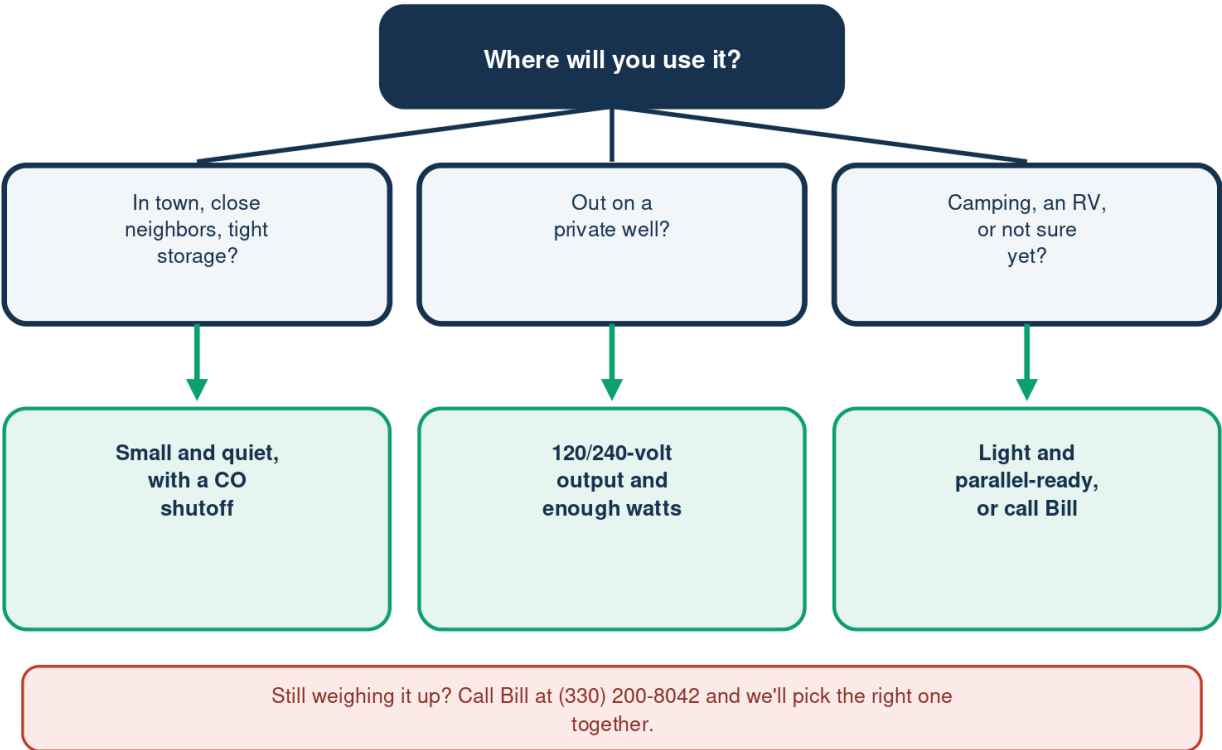


Illustration - a schematic, not to scale. Your setup may differ.



## Need a Real Person?

You do not have to remember all of it.  
You just have to remember you can call.  
Friendly, in-home tech help — I come to you.

### BILL'S PROMISE

If you are not 100% happy with a visit, I will  
make it right — or refund it. No awkwardness,  
no fine print. That is how I would want to be treated.

**(330) 200-8042 · BillsHomeTech.com**

Bill@BillsHomeTech.com · Mon–Sat 9:00 AM – 7:30 PM

— Bill

---

### Prefer help without a visit?

Bill can screen-share and fix many things remotely — a flat \$49, free for Support Plan members.



## A Note From Bill

### A quick note from Bill.

I write these guides to make home tech a little less frustrating, and I do my best to keep every step accurate and up to date. Still, every home, device, and setup is a bit different, so I can't promise a guide will match yours exactly or fix your particular problem. These guides are for general information only — they're not professional, legal, or financial advice, and they don't replace your device's own manual or the manufacturer's instructions. Please go slow, use your own good judgment, and use everything here at your own risk. If a step involves electrical wiring, a gas appliance, a water heater, plumbing, or climbing a ladder — or if anything just doesn't feel safe — please stop and call a licensed professional (or give me a call at 330-200-8042). Bill's Home Tech and Bill Davis can't be responsible for any damage, data loss, or injury that comes from using these guides. Thanks for reading, and stay safe out there.

— *Bill*



Book a visit —  
[billshometech.com/book](https://billshometech.com/book)

Use of these guides is subject to our Terms of Use ([billshometech.com/terms-of-use](https://billshometech.com/terms-of-use)).

**(330) 200-8042 · BillsHomeTech.com**

Bill@BillsHomeTech.com · Mon–Sat 9:00 AM – 7:30 PM

For general information only — not professional advice. Use at your own risk. For electrical, gas, water, or ladder work, please call a licensed professional. — Bill's Home Tech