



An Extended Guide · No. 1252

Fuel & Runtime

Getting the most from a tank

Tech Made Simple — Service Made Personal

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Hello, and welcome

When the power goes out and you fire up the generator, two questions come up fast: what do I feed it, and how long will it keep going? This guide answers both in plain English — no guessing, no worry.

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.

We'll cover what these units burn and why fresh fuel matters, how runtime really works (it's mostly about how hard the generator is working), the safe way to add fuel, and how to make a tank stretch through a long Ohio outage. We'll look at it for folks in town and for those out in the country on a well, and we'll cover the one safety rule that never bends.

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.

The two things that decide your runtime

Here's the whole guide in a nutshell before we dig in. How long your generator runs comes down to just two things: how much fuel is in the tank, and how hard you're asking it to work.

The **tank** is the easy part. A bigger tank holds more fuel, and more fuel means more running time — same as your car. Most portable inverter generators hold a modest amount, enough for a good long stretch on a sensible load.

The **load** — how much power you're pulling at once — is the part that really moves the needle, and it's the part you control. Run just the essentials and a tank lasts a wonderfully long time. Try to run the whole house at once and that same tank empties in a hurry. Most of this guide is really about working that lever in your favor.

There's a third piece too: **what you burn**. Most units run on ordinary gasoline, some run on propane, and some take either one. Each has its own strengths, and we'll sort them out so you can pick what suits you.

✓ You're in the driver's seat

The comforting news is that runtime isn't a fixed number stamped on the box — it bends to how you use the machine. A few simple habits, which we'll walk through, can stretch a single tank a great deal further. You have more control than you might think.

Gasoline: what most units burn

The great majority of inverter generators run on ordinary gasoline — the same regular unleaded you put in the car. It's easy to find, it packs plenty of power, and it starts easily. There's really only one thing to mind: keep it fresh.

For almost every unit, plain **regular unleaded** is exactly right. You don't need premium or any special blend unless your manual says so, which is rare. The fuel that runs your car and your lawn mower runs your generator.

The catch with gasoline is that it doesn't keep. Left sitting in a can or a tank for a few months, it slowly goes stale, loses its punch, and begins to gum up the small parts inside the engine. Stale fuel is the single most common reason a generator won't start on the morning of a storm.

So the habit to build is simple: **run fresh gas**. Fill up close to when you'll use it, and if fuel is going to sit for more than a month or so, treat it — which is exactly what the next page is about. Fresh fuel in, easy starting: that's the whole story.

★ Fresh fuel is the cheapest insurance there is

Before storm season, I like to help folks make sure their generator has fresh, treated fuel and actually starts — so it's ready when the sky turns green, not a surprise. It's a five-minute check that saves a very bad morning. Happy to walk you through it.

The ethanol truth (and how to beat it)

Nearly all the gasoline sold today has a little ethanol in it — you'll see "up to ten percent ethanol" on the pump. It's fine to run, but it's worth understanding, because it's why fuel goes bad and small engines get fussy.

Ethanol is a kind of alcohol, and alcohol pulls moisture out of the air. Over weeks and months, that moisture and the ethanol together can gum up the tiny passages in a small carburetor — the part that mixes fuel and air. That sticky, varnish-like gunk is what keeps a neglected generator from starting.

Two easy habits beat it. First, **use fresh fuel** and don't let gas sit for months. Second, if fuel will sit — in the tank or a can — add a splash of **fuel stabilizer**, a cheap bottle from any hardware store. Stabilizer keeps gasoline usable for many months instead of a few weeks. Just follow the dose on the bottle.

Folks who store fuel a long time often prefer **ethanol-free gasoline**, sold at some stations and in cans made for small engines. It keeps better and is kinder to the carburetor. It costs a bit more, but for fuel that mostly waits for emergencies, many people find it well worth it. Check your manual for what it recommends.

✓ A note to tuck away

If your generator is mostly for emergencies and will sit between storms, stabilizer or ethanol-free gas is the difference between "starts on the first pull" and "won't start at all." There's a full fuel-storage guide in this series that goes deeper.

How runtime really works

This is the heart of the guide. A generator's runtime — how long it keeps going on one tank — isn't a fixed number. It stretches or shrinks depending mostly on how much power you're drawing.

Think of it like the miles-per-gallon on your car. Cruising gently on the highway, you go a long way on a tank. Stopping, starting, and hauling a heavy trailer, that same tank drains fast. A generator is exactly the same: run a **light load** and it sips fuel for a long stretch; run a **heavy load** and it drinks.

Here's the encouraging part. The difference between light and heavy isn't small — it's dramatic. A generator loafing along on a few lights, the Wi-Fi, and a refrigerator can run **many times longer** on the same tank than one straining near its limit. Running well under a generator's maximum is the single best thing you can do to stretch a tank.

The **tank size** matters too, of course — more fuel, more time — but you can't change the tank. What you can change is the load. That's why the rest of this guide keeps coming back to one idea: run what you truly need, not everything you own, and your fuel goes remarkably far.

✓ The number on the box is a best case

Makers often list a runtime figure, but it's usually measured at a light load — a gentle, best-case number. Real life, with the fridge cycling on and off, will be shorter. Treat the box figure as a hopeful ceiling, not a promise.

Eco mode: your fuel-saving friend

Almost every inverter generator has a little switch labeled "eco," "economy," or "smart throttle." It's one of the best reasons to own an inverter unit, and flipping it on is the easiest way to stretch a tank.

Here's what it does. A plain generator runs its engine flat-out the whole time, whether you're powering the whole house or a single lamp — loud and thirsty. With eco mode on, the engine **speeds up and slows down to match** exactly how much power you're actually using. Running just a few small things? The engine idles down to a soft murmur.

The payoff is real: with eco mode on, a light load uses noticeably less fuel and the generator runs much quieter — kind to you and to the neighbors. For most of an outage, when you're simply keeping the essentials going, eco mode should just be left on.

There's **one moment to switch it off**. When you're about to start something with a motor — a refrigerator, a freezer, a pump, a furnace fan — that motor needs a big gulp of extra power for the first second. With eco mode on, the engine can be caught napping and stumble. So flip eco off, start the motor, let it settle, then flip eco back on. It takes ten seconds and saves wear.

✓ A simple rhythm

Leave eco on almost all the time. Only reach for the switch when you're about to kick on a big motor: eco off, start it, then eco back on. That's the whole trick.

How long will it run for you?

Everyone wants a number, and I understand why. But an honest guide won't hand you a fixed "it runs so many hours," because the true answer depends on your unit and your load. Here's how to think about it instead.

Start with the runtime the maker lists, but read it for what it is: a **best case**, measured at a light load in a lab. Your real runtime, with a refrigerator cycling and a few things plugged in, will be shorter — sometimes quite a bit shorter. It's a ceiling, not a promise.

A more useful way to picture it is in **relative terms**. On a light load — lights, phones, the internet, the TV — a typical inverter generator can run a good long while, comfortably through an evening and often well beyond. Pile on more, and that same tank might carry you only a fraction as far. The lighter you run it, the longer it goes.

The most reliable way to learn your own numbers is simply to **run it and watch**. On a calm day, fill the tank, plug in your usual outage lineup, and see how the fuel gauge moves over an hour or two. That gives you a real feel for your machine and your load — worth far more than any figure on a box.

★ Let's find your real numbers together

If you'd like, I'll come out, set up your generator with the things you'd actually run in an outage, and help you get a genuine sense of how long a tank lasts for your home. No more guessing. Give me a call at (330) 200-8042.

Adding fuel — the safe way

After the carbon-monoxide talk, this is the most important page in the guide, so please read it carefully. Adding gasoline to a generator is simple and safe — as long as you do it in the right order.

Shut the engine off first. Never, ever pour gasoline into a running generator. Turn it off and let it come to a complete stop before you touch the fuel cap.

Let it cool down. This is the step people skip, and it's the one that matters most. A generator that's been running is hot, and gasoline vapors catch fire easily. A splash of fuel onto a hot engine can flash into flames. Give it a few minutes to cool — long enough that you could comfortably rest a hand near the engine. Patience here is what keeps you safe.

Pour carefully and don't overfill. Use a funnel or a proper spout so you're not sloshing fuel around, and pour slowly. Stop before the tank is brimming — leave a little room at the top, because fuel expands as it warms. Then wipe up any drips before you restart, and set the fuel can well away.

! Off, cool, fill — in that order

A hot engine plus spilled gasoline is how generator fires start, and they're entirely preventable. Engine off, let it cool, fill with a funnel, don't overfill, wipe up spills. Never smoke or have any flame nearby. Do this every time and refueling is perfectly safe.

Topping up between runs

In a longer outage you'll be adding fuel now and then to keep going. A little planning makes it smooth, safe, and stress-free.

The friendliest habit is to **top up during a planned break** rather than waiting for the tank to run bone dry. When you shut the generator down for a rest — and we'll talk about running it part-time in a moment — that cool-down is the perfect time to add fuel. The engine is off anyway, it cools while you fetch the can, and you top it off ready for the next run.

Try not to run the tank **completely empty** if you can help it. Letting a generator sputter out isn't harmful now and then, but it's a nuisance in the dark and the cold, and some units need a moment of fiddling to catch again after a dry stall. Keeping a comfortable margin in the tank spares you that.

Keep your **fuel can close but not too close** — near enough to be handy, far enough that it's clear of the hot exhaust and any flame. And keep an eye on how much you have left, so you're refilling your cans at the station before you're down to fumes, not after.

✓ Tie refueling to your breaks

If you run the generator in stretches — a few hours on, a while off — simply make topping up part of every shutdown. Off, cool, fill, ready. You'll never be caught scrambling to refuel a hot machine in a hurry.

If you live in town: city and suburb

Most of my customers in town — Kent, Ravenna, Streetsboro, Aurora — are close to a gas station, and that shapes how you plan your fuel and runtime in a comfortable way.

The good news in town is that **fuel is usually close by**. On a normal day you're minutes from a pump, so you don't need a big stockpile on hand. A modest reserve — enough to run comfortably for a day or so — covers most of what an in-town outage throws at you.

But here's the catch worth planning for: in a real storm, **the stations can go down too**. When the power's out across town, the pumps don't work either, and the ones still running grow long lines fast. So the smart move isn't to hoard — it's to keep a **small, fresh reserve** topped up before storm season, so you're not depending on finding an open pump at the worst moment.

Runtime in town is usually the easy case. Most folks are just keeping the **refrigerator, some lights, the Wi-Fi, and the TV** going — a light load that stretches a tank nicely, especially in eco mode. You may well run the generator only part of the day and be perfectly comfortable.

! Apartments and condos are different

If you're in an apartment or condo with no safe outdoor spot well away from windows, running a fuel generator usually isn't practical — and storing gas cans indoors isn't safe. A quiet battery "power station" you charge from the wall is often the better tool. I'm glad to help you weigh it.

If you're in the country on a well

Out in the townships — Atwater, Rootstown, Deerfield, Palmyra — you're farther from the pump and often on a private well, and both of those change how you plan fuel and runtime.

The first difference is distance. When you're **miles from the nearest station**, you can't just run out for more gas mid-outage — especially at night or when the roads are bad. So country homes should keep a **larger fuel reserve** than folks in town: enough to run comfortably for several days without a trip to the pump, stored safely away from the house.

! 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.

The second difference is the **well pump**, and it changes your fuel math. If you're running a larger 120/240-volt generator to power the pump, understand that the pump is a **heavy load** — it drinks fuel while it runs. The trick is that you don't need water all day: run the generator to **fill the pressure tank and any water you're storing**, then let the pump rest and the generator loaf on lighter things. Plan your water runs into your fuel budget the way you'd plan errands into a tank of gas.

A wise country habit no matter what: **store drinking water ahead**, and fill a bathtub when a big storm is coming so you can flush. Water you don't have to pump is runtime saved — and a generator that can't reach the pump still can't make water.

The safety talk: carbon monoxide

Fuel and runtime are all about running the generator longer — which makes this the perfect place to repeat the one rule that keeps every extra hour safe. Because your generator burns fuel, it makes carbon monoxide, and where it runs is never negotiable.

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.

Making a tank last through a long outage

When an ice storm keeps the power out for days, you don't have to — and shouldn't — run the generator around the clock. A little strategy makes your fuel last far longer and lets everyone sleep.

The big idea is to **run part-time, not all the time**. Your refrigerator and freezer are the best example. A full fridge stays cold for several hours with the door closed, and a full freezer far longer. So you don't need to power them continuously — run the generator for a stretch to pull everything cold, shut it down for a good while and let the food **coast**, then run it again when things start to warm. You might run it only a handful of hours across a whole day.

While it's running, **prioritize**. Cool the fridge and freezer, charge every phone, tablet, and battery in the house, run the well pump to fill your water, warm or cool the house a bit — get all your power-hungry chores done in that window. Then when you shut down, you coast on stored cold, stored water, and charged batteries.

At **night**, most folks shut the generator off entirely. The fridge easily coasts till morning, the house holds its temperature under blankets, and you're spared the noise, the fuel, and any worry while you sleep. This one rhythm — run hard for a bit, coast for longer — can make a tank of fuel do the work of several.

✓ Fill everything while it's running

Every time the generator is on is a chance to stock up: top off the fridge's cold, fill your water jugs, charge all the batteries. The more you bank while it runs, the longer you can coast with it off.

Propane: a little less power, years of shelf life

Many generators — and nearly all "dual-fuel" ones — can run on propane, the same tanks that feed your grill. For fuel and runtime, propane has one weakness and one real strength worth weighing.

The weakness: propane gives a **touch less power** than gasoline. Run the same generator on propane and you'll get a little less out of it, and it can be sluggish to light in bitter cold. For most household backup that difference is small and hardly noticed — but if you're running near the generator's limit, gasoline has a slight edge.

The strength is a big one: propane **stores for years** without going bad. Gasoline goes stale in months and needs stabilizer and rotating; a propane cylinder sits on the shelf ready to go for a very long time. For a generator that mostly waits for emergencies, that's wonderful — no stale-fuel worry, nothing to pour out and refresh, just a full tank waiting.

As for **runtime**, a propane cylinder is a fixed amount of fuel just like a tank of gas, so the same rule holds: a light load stretches it a long way, a heavy load drinks it. The nice part is you can keep **several cylinders** on hand and swap to a fresh one when one runs low — no funnel, no spills, no cool-down wait to reconnect.

✓ Dual-fuel gives you both

A dual-fuel unit runs on either gasoline or propane, so you get gasoline's full power when you want it and propane's long shelf life for storage — and if the gas stations are dry after a storm, you switch to a propane tank and keep going. Dual-fuel gets its own guide in this series.

Keeping spare fuel on hand, safely

A generator is only as good as the fuel you've got for it, so keeping a reserve is smart. The key is storing it **safely** — fuel deserves respect, and a few plain rules keep it worry-free.

Store gasoline only in **approved fuel containers** — the red cans made for it, with proper caps — never in milk jugs or random bottles. Keep them **outside your living space**: a detached garage or shed is ideal, away from the house, away from any heat, flame, pilot light, or spark, and out of children's reach.

Keep your fuel **fresh and rotated**. Treat stored gasoline with stabilizer, label each can with the date you filled it, and use the oldest first — pouring it into the car and refilling the can keeps your reserve from ever going stale. A reserve of bad gas is no reserve at all.

For **propane**, store the cylinders **upright and outdoors**, away from heat, never inside the house or a closed garage. Propane keeps for years, which makes it an easy, low-worry way to hold a reserve — one reason a lot of folks lean on it for emergency backup.

★ There's a whole guide on this

Storing fuel safely is important enough to have its own guide in this series, with the full details on containers, amounts, and the do's and don'ts. If you'd like a hand setting up a safe, sensible fuel reserve for your home, that's exactly the sort of thing I help with — just call (330) 200-8042.

How much fuel is enough?

"How much should I keep?" is the question everyone asks, and there's no single right number — it depends on where you live and how long your outages tend to run. Here's how to think it through.

Start with a simple question: **how long do your outages usually last?** In much of Portage County a summer thunderstorm might knock power out for a few hours to a day; a serious winter ice storm can stretch to several days. Keep enough fuel to run comfortably through the kind of outage you actually get, plus a little cushion.

Then remember you'll be **running part-time**, not around the clock. Because you cycle the generator — running a few hours, coasting for more — a day of outage doesn't mean a full day of fuel. A modest reserve goes further than folks expect once you're loafing on a light load and letting the fridge coast.

For most homes **in town**, a small reserve of a couple of cans, kept fresh, is plenty — the station is close once things settle. **Out in the country**, or if you're running a well, keep more: enough for several days, since a pump run is thirsty and the pump is farther away. Whatever amount you choose, the golden rule stands — keep it **fresh and rotated**, because stale fuel helps no one.

✓ Plan it once, then just rotate

Work out a sensible reserve for your home a single time, get the right cans, and after that it's just a habit: keep them full and fresh going into storm season, and rotate the fuel through so it never sits too long.

Common fuel and runtime questions

Folks ask me the same handful of good questions about fuel and runtime. Here are the quick, plain answers.

Q: Can I use the gas from my car or mower?

Yes — regular unleaded is regular unleaded. Just make sure it's fresh. The same can that fills your mower is fine for the generator.

Q: Will running low on fuel hurt it?

Letting it run dry now and then won't wreck it, but it's a nuisance in the dark, and some units fuss a little to restart after a dry stall. Keep a comfortable margin.

Q: Do I need premium gasoline?

No. Plain regular unleaded is right for almost every unit — check your manual, but premium is rarely called for and won't buy you anything.

Q: How do I know when the tank's getting low?

Most units have a fuel gauge or a little sight window. Glance at it when the generator's off, and top up during a rest rather than waiting for it to sputter.

Q: Is it cheaper to run on propane or gas?

It varies with fuel prices and how hard you're running it. The bigger reasons to choose propane are its long shelf life and easy storage, not a dramatic difference in cost.

A sensible rhythm for a day on the generator

To pull it all together, here's how a comfortable day on generator power tends to go in a longer outage. Nothing here is a rule — just a sensible rhythm many folks settle into.

Morning: start the generator, and while it's running get your power-hungry chores done. Pull the fridge and freezer good and cold, brew the coffee, charge every phone and battery, run the well pump to fill your water, and warm or cool the house a little. This is your busy window — bank everything while the power's flowing.

Midday: once you've stocked up on cold, water, and charged batteries, you can **shut the generator down** and coast. The fridge holds, the phones are full, the house is comfortable. Enjoy the quiet and save your fuel. Top off the tank while it's cooled down, ready for the next run.

Evening: fire it up again for a few hours when you want lights, the TV, and a warm supper, and to pull the fridge cold once more before bed. Run it on the light stuff in eco mode and it'll sip fuel through the evening.

Overnight: most folks shut it off and sleep. The fridge coasts till morning, the house holds under blankets, and there's no noise or fuel burned while you rest. Come morning, you start the rhythm again. Run hard for a bit, coast for longer — that's how a surprisingly small amount of fuel carries a household through a long outage in comfort.

✓ Adjust it to your life

This is a template, not a timetable. If someone's home all day, or a medical device needs steady power, your rhythm will look different — and that's fine. The principle stays the same: run to stock up, then coast.

Simple habits that stretch every tank

None of this is complicated, and none of it costs a thing. A handful of easy habits will make your fuel go noticeably further when it counts.

- **Run in eco mode.** Leave it on whenever you're not starting a big motor. It's the single easiest way to sip less fuel and run quieter.
- **Run only what you need.** The lighter the load, the longer the tank. In an outage, power the true essentials, not everything you own.
- **Cycle it, don't idle it all day.** Run to pull the fridge cold and charge up, then shut down and coast. Fuel burned doing nothing is fuel wasted.
- **Open the fridge and freezer as little as possible.** Every peek lets the cold out and makes the generator work harder next run. Decide what you want, then open once.
- **Start big motors one at a time.** Don't kick on the fridge, the pump, and a heater all at once — let each settle before the next, so the generator isn't slammed.
- **Keep the unit maintained.** A clean air filter, fresh oil, and a good spark plug mean an engine that burns fuel efficiently. There's a maintenance guide in this series.
- **Bank water and charged batteries.** The more you store while it runs, the less you need to run it. Stored cold and stored water are runtime in the bank.

Put two or three of these together and you'll be amazed how far a single tank carries you.

How I can help

Fuel and runtime come down to a few simple habits, and once someone shows you the ropes it all clicks. That's exactly the kind of hands-on, no-rush help I love to give 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.

For anything involving your home's wiring — running a larger generator to a well pump or into the house through a transfer switch — I'm not a licensed electrician, so I'll bring one in for that part and handle the rest myself. You get 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 fuel and runtime checklist

Tear this page out and tuck it inside a cabinet door with your generator's manual. When the wind picks up, you'll be glad it's there.

- ☐ Fresh fuel on hand — gasoline treated with stabilizer, or full propane cylinders.
- ☐ Fuel stored safely: approved cans, outside the living space, away from heat and flame.
- ☐ Fuel cans labeled with the date and rotated so nothing sits too long.
- ☐ A funnel or proper spout kept with the generator for clean, safe refueling.
- ☐ You know the refuel rule: engine off, let it cool, don't overfill.
- ☐ Eco mode understood — leave it on, flip it off only for big motor starts.
- ☐ A plan to run part-time and let the fridge and freezer coast between runs.
- ☐ For well homes: extra fuel stocked, and a few days of drinking water stored.

Eight simple check marks, and a long outage becomes a manageable — even comfortable — thing.

The short version

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

- Runtime depends mostly on the load: a light load runs many times longer than a heavy one, so run only what you need.
- Most units burn fresh gasoline — keep it fresh, add stabilizer if it will sit, and beat ethanol with fresh fuel or ethanol-free gas.
- Refuel safely every time: engine off, let it cool, use a funnel, don't overfill, wipe up spills.
- In a long outage, run part-time and let the fridge coast; keep a fuel reserve — modest in town, larger on a well.
- Eco mode saves fuel and noise (off for motor starts), propane stores for years, and I'm only a phone call away.

Fuel & Runtime at a Glance

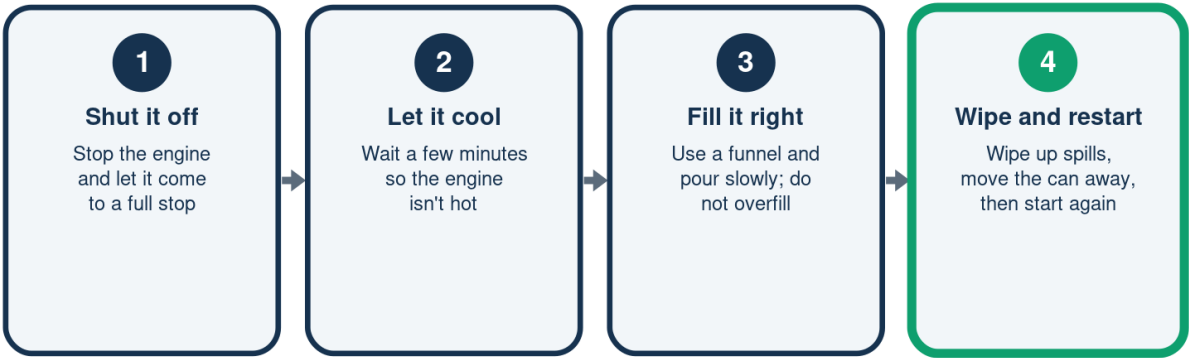
The plain-English version

	The short answer	Why it matters
What they burn	Mostly gasoline	Some run on propane
How long it runs	Depends on load	Light load, long run
Stretch a tank	Use eco mode	Run only essentials
Refuel safely	Engine off, cool	Funnel, don't overfill
The one big rule	Run outside only	20 feet from the house

Runtime bends to how you use it — run light, refuel cool, and keep the exhaust outdoors.

Refueling, Step by Step

The safe order that prevents fires



Off, cool, fill, restart — this order every time, and refueling is perfectly safe.

Gasoline vs. Propane

Two fuels, two sets of traits

	Gasoline	Propane
Power	Full power	A touch less
Shelf life	Stale in months	Stores for years
Storage care	Needs stabilizer	Just sits ready
Cold starts	Starts easily	Can be sluggish
After a storm	Pumps may close	Swap a cylinder
Refueling	Cool, then fill	Swap the tank

Gasoline brings the power and is easy to find; propane stores for years with no fuss. Dual-fuel gives you both.

Planning Your Fuel

Match your reserve to how you'll use it

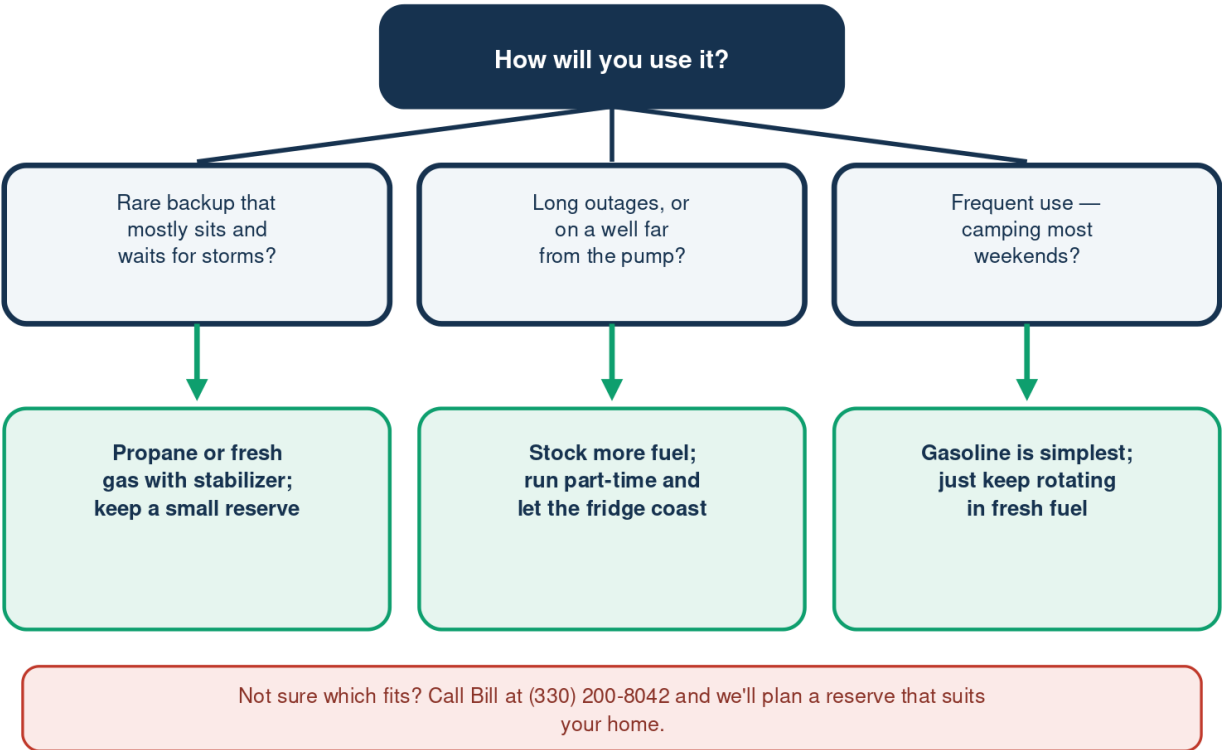


Illustration - a schematic, not to scale. Your setup may differ.



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.

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— Bill

Prefer help without a visit?

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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*



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