



An Extended Guide · No. 1264

Your First Start

From the box to
power, step by step

Tech Made Simple — Service Made Personal

BillsHomeTech.com · (330) 200-8042 · Atwater, Ohio

Free & printable — share it with someone who needs it



Book a visit —
billshometech.com/book

Hello, and welcome

If you've just brought home a shiny new generator and you're eyeing that box with a little mix of excitement and nerves, you're in exactly the right place — we'll do your very first start together, one calm step at a time, and by the end it'll feel easy.

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.

In these pages we'll open the box, add the oil (the step folks most often skip), add fuel, carry it safely outside, and walk through the start sequence one knob at a time. Then we'll cover plugging in without overloading it, reading the little indicator lights, and shutting it down properly. No rush, no jargon — just a friendly hand the first time.

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.

Before you begin: set aside a calm hour

The best time to learn a new machine is a quiet afternoon with nothing on the line — not a dark, stormy night when you actually need it. So let's do the whole first start now.

There's real wisdom in this. Learn the generator today, on an ordinary day, and the next real outage becomes a routine you've already done — not a puzzle you're solving by flashlight in the rain. An hour now buys you a great deal of calm later.

Gather a few things before you start so you're not hunting halfway through. You'll want the **owner's manual** (keep it right beside you — every unit is a little different), the **right oil** (the manual names the exact kind), a small **funnel**, **fresh fuel** or a full propane tank, a **rag** for spills, and maybe a pair of work gloves. A flashlight if the light is poor.

Then skim the manual's quick-start page once before you touch anything. It only takes a few minutes, and it shows you where your particular unit's controls live, since they're not all in the same spot. Reading it first is not a sign you're unsure — it's exactly what careful people do.

✓ No rush, no pressure

There's no timer on any of this. If a step feels unclear, stop, take a breath, and read it again — or call me. You will not break anything by going slowly, and slow is the right speed the first time through.

Opening the box: what's usually inside

Before we do anything, let's see what came home with you and make sure nothing's missing.

Lift the generator out carefully — these are heavier than they look, so bend your knees or get a hand from someone. Set it down on a firm, level surface like the garage floor or the driveway where you can walk all the way around it.

- **The generator itself**, usually with a little oil funnel tucked into the packaging.
- **A bottle of oil** — sometimes included, often not. If there's none, you'll need to buy the exact kind the manual specifies.
- **A spark-plug wrench or small tool kit** for basic upkeep down the road.
- **A DC charging cord** (the kind for topping up a car battery) on many units.
- **The owner's manual** and a folded warranty or registration card.

The manual has a "what's in the box" page — take a minute to match it against what you found, so you know everything's accounted for before you get going. And don't toss the box or packing foam until the unit is running and you're happy with it; it's the easiest way to return it if something's amiss.

✓ Register it while you're thinking of it

Filling out the warranty card, or registering online, now on a calm day saves you hunting for the receipt later if you ever need service. Jot the model and serial number somewhere safe too — snap a photo of the label with your phone.

The most important step: add oil first

This is the one step people skip, and it's the one that ruins brand-new generators. Please don't skip it.

Most inverter generators ship from the factory with **no oil in them** — bone dry — so they don't leak during shipping. If you fill the tank with fuel and start it dry, the engine can be wrecked in a matter of minutes, and that damage isn't covered by the warranty. So oil goes in **first**: before fuel, before anything else.

Find the oil fill cap — the manual shows exactly where it is, usually behind a little side panel or door. Unscrew it and set it somewhere clean. Use the **oil weight the manual calls for** (it names it exactly; a thinner oil is often specified for cold weather). Pour slowly through the funnel, a little at a time, checking the dipstick or the fill line as you go.

Fill it right to the mark — no higher. Then wipe the dipstick, reseal it, and check once more to be sure. When it reads full, you're done: cap back on, snug but not forced.

! Don't overfill, either

Too much oil is nearly as harmful as too little — it can make the engine smoke, leak, or refuse to start. Add it slowly and keep checking. If you go over the mark, tip a little back out. Fill to the line and no further, and you've done the single best thing for your generator's long life.

Adding fuel: fresh gas or a propane tank

With oil in and checked, now it's time for fuel — and "fresh" is the word that matters most.

If your unit runs on **gasoline**, fill the tank with fresh, clean gas, ideally bought within the last month or so. Old gas that's been sitting in a can all summer gums up the works and is one of the top reasons a generator won't start. Use a funnel, leave a little room at the top rather than filling to the very brim, and wipe up any spills before you go near it with a start.

If the generator will mostly sit and wait for outages, add a splash of **fuel stabilizer** so the gas keeps longer, and plan to refresh it every few months. If yours runs on **propane** — the same tanks as a backyard grill — screw the hose onto a full tank hand-tight, then open the tank valve slowly. Give it a moment and a sniff; if you smell gas, close it and recheck the fitting. Propane stores for years, which makes it lovely for backup.

Either way, check your manual for which fuel your unit takes and any details it wants — a dual-fuel model, for instance, has a small selector you set for gas or propane before starting.

! Fuel and running engines never mix

Only ever add gasoline to a generator that is **off and cool** — never while it's running or hot. Fuel it outside, away from any flame, cigarette, or spark, and keep a working fire extinguisher nearby. Wipe up every spill before you start it. This one's worth being fussy about.

Take it outside — yes, even for the test

Before that very first pull, the generator goes outside. Every start, no exceptions — and that includes this quiet little practice run.

It's tempting to think, "it's only a quick test, I'll just fire it up in the garage for a minute to see if it runs." Please don't. A generator makes carbon monoxide from the very first second it runs, and that first minute in a garage is exactly how people get hurt. The test start counts every bit as much as the real thing.

Carry or wheel it out to a firm, level spot **at least 20 feet from the house**, with the exhaust pointed **away** from any door, window, or vent — yours and your neighbors'. An open driveway or a patch of the yard is perfect. Not the garage, not the covered porch, not the open doorway.

Pick a dry day for the practice run, too. You want good footing and good light, not to be wrestling with a brand-new machine in the rain. The next page is the full safety talk — the most important few paragraphs in this whole guide — and then we'll start it.

! The test start is a real start

The engine doesn't know it's "just a test" — it makes the same invisible, deadly carbon monoxide it makes in a storm. So your practice run goes outside, 20 feet out, exhaust pointed away, every bit as carefully as the real thing. There is no such thing as a start that's safe to do indoors.

The safety talk: carbon monoxide

Since we're about to start the engine for the very first time, this is the moment to talk about the one real danger a generator carries — and how simple it is to stay completely safe from it.

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.

Meet the controls before you start

A first start is far calmer when you already know what each knob and switch does. Let's find them — and remember, yours may be laid out a little differently, so keep the manual open.

There are only a handful of controls that matter for starting, and every inverter generator has some version of them, even if they sit in different spots or wear slightly different labels. Take a moment to locate each one on your unit before you pull anything.

- **The fuel valve** (or fuel shut-off) — a small lever or knob you turn to let fuel flow to the engine. Open to run, closed for storage.
- **The choke** — a lever you set one way to start a cold engine and the other way once it's warmed up. Some newer units have an automatic choke and no lever at all.
- **The eco (or economy) switch** — turns the quiet, fuel-saving mode on and off. It goes off for starting.
- **The start control** — what actually cranks it: a pull cord, a turn key, or a push button, depending on the model. Some units have more than one.
- **The outlets and indicator lights**, on the front panel, which we'll come to once it's running.

On many units there's also a main **engine or power switch** that has to be in the on or run position — an easy one to overlook when nothing seems to happen.

✓ Circle them in your manual

Take a pen and circle where each of these lives on your manual's diagram. Layouts vary enough between brands that this two-minute step saves a lot of squinting later — especially by flashlight during an outage.

The start sequence, step by step

Here's the heart of it. Go slowly, in order, and don't worry — you truly cannot hurt anything by taking your time.

With the generator outside and nothing plugged into it yet, follow these steps in order. Your manual may word them a little differently, and when in doubt, the manual wins.

- **1. Open the fuel valve.** Turn it to the open or "on" position so fuel can reach the engine.
- **2. Set the choke to start.** Move the choke lever to "start," "closed," or "cold." If your unit has an automatic choke, skip this — it does it for you.
- **3. Turn eco mode off.** You want the engine's full strength to start; the quiet eco mode comes on later.
- **4. Make sure the engine switch is on, then start it.** Turn the key, press the button, or give the recoil cord one smooth, firm pull (don't yank it all the way out). Two or three tries when cold is normal.
- **5. Let it warm a moment.** Once it catches, let it run and settle for maybe half a minute so it isn't straining cold.
- **6. Move the choke to run.** Slide the choke back to "run" or "open." The engine should smooth out into a steady idle.

And that's a running generator. Take a breath — the hard part is behind you, and it gets easier every single time you do it.

★ The first pull is the nerve-wracking one

If it feels like a lot the first time, that's completely normal, and it's exactly the kind of thing I love to do side by side with folks. Once you've felt it start once, the nerves melt away. Call me at (330) 200-8042 and we'll do it together.

Let it run and settle before anything else

The generator's running — now the temptation is to plug everything in at once. Resist it for just a minute more.

Give the engine a minute or two to warm up and find its steady rhythm before you ask anything of it, much like letting a car warm on a cold morning. You'll hear it smooth out from a rough cold idle into an even hum. That little settling makes for a cleaner, steadier start when the load finally comes on.

While it settles, listen and look. It should run steadily, without heavy sputtering, surging, or knocking. A touch of roughness in the first few seconds is normal; ongoing rough running is worth a closer look, and there's a troubleshooting guide in this series for exactly that.

This is also the moment to glance at the indicator lights — the little lamps on the front panel — to confirm it's happy. We'll read those together on the next page but one. For now, just let it hum and enjoy the fact that it's alive and running.

✓ A calm minute pays off

Those sixty seconds of patience are the difference between a smooth first start and a stall. There's no prize for rushing. Let it settle into its hum, and then we'll bring your devices on, gently.

Plugging in — gently, and one at a time

Now the satisfying part: actual power. The trick is to add your things one at a time, and to stay comfortably under the generator's limit.

Once it's warmed and running steadily, you can flip eco mode back on if you like — it'll quiet down and sip less fuel — then plug in your first item. Use a **heavy, outdoor-rated extension cord** that's up to the job; a thin indoor cord can overheat and is not safe for this.

Add your devices **one at a time**, not all in a rush. Plug in the first, let the generator settle to it, then add the next. That gentle approach keeps it from being startled by everything arriving at the same instant — especially anything with a motor, like a refrigerator, which asks for a big gulp of power the moment it kicks on.

Every generator has a limit — its **wattage rating**, printed on the unit and in the manual. Don't go over it. Add up roughly what you're running and leave some room. If you ask for too much, the generator will tell you: the overload light comes on and it may shut off to protect itself. If that happens, unplug something and you're right back in business.

! Never plug it into a wall outlet

Run cords from the generator straight to your appliances, or through a proper transfer switch that a licensed electrician installed. Never plug a generator into a wall outlet to "power the house" — that shortcut, called backfeeding, can kill a lineman or start a fire. Whole-house power is an electrician's job, and I'm glad to help you arrange it.

Reading the little indicator lights

Most inverter generators have a row of small lights on the front that tell you, at a glance, how things are going. Here's what they're saying.

The exact colors and symbols vary by model — your manual has a key — but nearly all of them boil down to three simple messages: all is well, you're asking too much, or check the oil.

The running light — all is well

Usually a green light, sometimes marked "output" or a little AC symbol. It means the generator is running and putting out power normally. This is the one you want to see. Nothing to do but enjoy the power.

The overload light — you're asking too much

Usually yellow or red, sometimes marked "overload." It means you've plugged in more than the generator can handle, and it may shut off the outlets to protect itself. The fix is simple: unplug something, or turn off the biggest item, and it'll recover. Then bring things back on more gently.

The low-oil light — stop and add oil

Usually red, often marked with a little oilcan. Most units will actually shut the engine off when the oil runs low, to save it from harm — so if it stops on its own and this light is lit, don't panic and don't keep yanking the cord. Let it cool, check the oil, and top it back to the mark.

✓ Keep the manual's light key handy

Snap a photo of your manual's page explaining the lights and keep it on your phone. Colors and symbols differ enough between brands that it's genuinely worth having yours within reach.

Shutting it down the right way

Turning a generator off is its own little routine, and doing it in order keeps the unit healthy and ready for next time.

Don't just flip the switch while everything's still plugged in and running hard. A calm, ordered shutdown is kinder to the machine and to your appliances. Here's the order:

- **1. Unplug your devices first.** Take the load off before you stop the engine — unplug your cords or switch your things off — so the generator isn't stopped under a heavy pull.
- **2. Let it idle and cool.** Let it run with nothing plugged in for a minute or two (turning eco mode off is fine here). This lets it cool evenly instead of stopping hot.
- **3. Turn the engine off.** Use the engine or power switch to stop it — key to off, a button, or a switch, whichever yours has.
- **4. Close the fuel valve.** Turn the fuel valve to the closed or "off" position. Many units even let you run the engine until it uses up the fuel in the line first — the manual will say — which keeps that fuel from gumming up while it sits.

Closing the fuel valve is the step folks forget, and it's a good one: it keeps fuel from seeping and stale gas from clogging things during storage. A generator put away this way starts far more happily next time.

✓ Let it cool before you cover or store it

Give the engine fifteen or twenty minutes to cool before you put a cover on it or move it inside for storage. A hot muffler near a cover or a fuel can is a fire risk. A little patience here, too, goes a long way.

If you live in town: city and suburb

If you're in town — Kent, Ravenna, Streetsboro, Aurora — your first start is a relaxed driveway affair, and doing it now means you're never learning on the fly in the middle of an outage.

On a town lot, the driveway is usually your spot: firm, level, open, and easy to reach that 20 feet from the house. Pick a calm, dry afternoon, wheel the generator out, and run the whole routine start to finish — oil checked, fuel fresh, the start sequence, plug in a lamp, read the lights, then shut it down. Treat it as a friendly dress rehearsal.

The quiet of an inverter unit is a real gift in a close neighborhood, but a brand-new generator on its first run is the loudest it'll be while you're still getting the choke just right. Doing this on a Saturday afternoon — rather than at two in the morning during a storm — is kinder to your neighbors and a good deal calmer for you.

Because you're on city water, your practice can focus on the essentials you'll actually run: the **refrigerator**, a few **lamps**, the **Wi-Fi router**, phone chargers, the **TV**. Plug them in one at a time and watch how the generator takes each one. You'll learn its rhythm and its limits with zero pressure on you.

✓ Make it a yearly habit

Pick an easy date — say, the first cool Saturday of fall, before storm season — to haul it out and run it. A generator you've started in the last few months is one you can trust the moment the lights go out.

If you're in the country on a well

Out in the townships — Atwater, Rootstown, Deerfield, Palmyra — a first start isn't just a nicety. It's how you find out, on a calm day, that your generator will actually come to life when a storm takes the power and the well with it.

On a well, the stakes of a no-start are higher: no power can mean no water, so you want zero surprises. Do your first start now, and then a **dry run every year before storm season**. Carry it out to your spot, go through the whole routine, and confirm with your own eyes and ears that it fires up and runs steady long before you're leaning on it.

! 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.

If you have a larger 120/240-volt unit for the well, your first start is the time to make sure it fires up — and to have a licensed electrician confirm the hookup and transfer switch are right, while the sun's out rather than during the storm. If your generator is a smaller one that can't run the pump, your first start still matters plenty for the fridge, freezer, lights, and phones.

A country readiness habit that never fails you: run it once on a calm day, store fresh fuel or a full propane tank, keep a few days of **drinking water** put by, and fill the bathtub when a big storm is coming so you can flush. A generator you've tested, plus water you've stored, is real peace of mind out where the crews take longest to reach.

After the first hours: the break-in oil change

Here's one more first-timer's step that pays off for years: many new generators want an early oil change, sooner than the regular schedule.

A brand-new engine sheds tiny metal particles as its parts wear in and seat together during those first few hours of running — that's called **breaking in**. Changing the oil early carries those particles out and sets the engine up for a long, healthy life.

Check your manual for the exact timing; it's commonly after the first few hours of run time — sometimes as little as the first five. Mark it so you don't forget: run the generator through your practice starts and a bit of gentle exercise, and once you've reached the manual's break-in hours, do that first oil change.

The change itself is much like on a lawn mower: run it a few minutes to warm the oil, shut it down and let it cool a touch, drain the old oil into a pan, and refill to the mark with fresh oil of the weight the manual specifies. Any auto-parts store will take the old oil for free recycling.

✓ Not sure when or how? That's an easy one

If the break-in change feels fiddly, it's a quick job to do together, or I can show you once so you've got it for good. There's a full maintenance guide in this series, too, if you'd like the deeper version.

If it won't start, don't fret

Now and then a new generator is stubborn on its first day. Nine times out of ten it's something small and quick to sort.

Before you worry, run down the short list of things that trip up almost every first start. Most no-starts are hiding right here:

- **Is there oil in it?** Some units simply won't start with low oil — the sensor stops them. Check the oil first.
- **Is the fuel valve open, and the fuel fresh?** Stale gas is a very common culprit, and a closed valve is an easy miss.
- **Is the choke set to start (closed) for a cold engine?**
- **Is eco mode off, and the engine or power switch on?**
- **On a pull-start, are you giving it a firm, smooth pull** rather than a gentle tug? On propane, is the tank valve open?

Work down that little list and most no-starts sort themselves out. If it turns over but won't quite catch, or starts and then dies, give it a few tries with the choke — a cold engine sometimes needs a couple of attempts before it settles.

★ A no-start is rarely serious

Truly, most first-day no-starts come down to oil, stale fuel, the choke, or a switch — not a broken machine. If the checklist doesn't do it, look at the troubleshooting guide in this series, and call me at (330) 200-8042 before you lose heart or haul it back to the store. We'll figure it out together.

Take it slow: practice on a calm day

If you remember one feeling from this guide, let it be this: there's no rush, and practice is the whole secret.

A generator is like anything new — a little strange the first time, and second nature by the third. The folks who feel calm and confident during an outage are simply the ones who ran through it once or twice ahead of time, on an ordinary afternoon with nothing on the line.

So make that practice run. On a nice day, do the whole thing end to end: check the oil, add fuel, carry it outside, start it, let it settle, plug in a lamp and maybe the fridge, read the lights, then shut it down properly. Do it a second time a week later. By then your hands will know the routine on their own.

Notice what you learn — where the choke is, how many pulls it likes when cold, how it sounds when it's happy, which cord reaches. Those small familiarities are exactly what a stressful night steals from you, so bank them now while it's easy and the sun is out.

✓ The best day to practice is a boring one

A calm, dry, uneventful afternoon is the perfect classroom. Learn the machine when the stakes are zero, and the next real outage becomes just a familiar routine you happen to be doing in the dark.

Your first-start checklist

Here's the whole first start on one page. Tick each box the first time through, and keep it tucked in with the manual.

- ☐ Read the manual's quick-start page and found your controls.
- ☐ Oil added and filled to the mark (most units ship dry).
- ☐ Fresh fuel in the tank, or a full propane tank hooked up.
- ☐ Generator carried outside, at least 20 feet from the house, exhaust pointed away.
- ☐ Working carbon-monoxide alarms inside, tested, with fresh batteries.
- ☐ Fuel valve open, choke set to start, eco mode off, engine switch on.
- ☐ Started it, let it warm, then moved the choke to run.
- ☐ Plugged in one item at a time with a heavy outdoor cord, staying under the rating.
- ☐ Checked the indicator lights — it's running happily.
- ☐ Shut it down in order: unplug, cool, off, close the fuel valve.
- ☐ Noted when the break-in oil change is due.

If every box is ticked, congratulations — you've done your first start, and you're ready for the next one. That next one will feel like nothing at all.

First-start worries, gently answered

The questions almost everyone has the first time, put plainly and put to rest.

Q: What if I flood it, or it won't catch?

A cold engine often wants two or three tries — that's normal. If it seems flooded, wait a minute, ease the choke off a touch, and try again. It is very hard to hurt it by trying.

Q: Is it bad that it smokes or smells at first?

A wisp of smoke or an oily smell on the very first run is common as the engine burns off its factory coatings. It should clear in a few minutes. Thick, steady smoke is worth a closer look.

Q: How do I know if I've plugged in too much?

The generator will tell you — the overload light comes on and it may cut the outlets. Just unplug something and you're fine. When in doubt, run less at once.

Q: Can I leave it running unattended?

Keep an eye and an ear on it, and never bring it closer to the house to check on it. Set it up right — outside and 20 feet out — and let it do its job, but don't run it in a way you can't keep tabs on.

Q: Do I have to do all of this every single time?

No — the fuss is mostly the first time. Once you know your controls, a start is just: outside, valve, choke, go, settle, plug in. It becomes a two-minute routine.

How I can help

A first start is genuinely one of my favorite house calls — there's nothing like watching someone go from nervous to grinning the moment their new generator hums to life. If you'd rather not do that first one alone, I would be delighted to do it right alongside you.

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.

The one part that isn't a do-it-together job is wiring the generator into your home — a transfer switch, or a 240-volt well-pump hookup. I'm a tech-help person, not a licensed electrician, so I bring a licensed one in for that and handle the rest, leaving you a single 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.

The short version

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

- Add oil first — most units ship dry, and running one dry ruins the engine. Fill to the mark with the exact oil the manual names.
- Take it outside for every start, even the first quick test: at least 20 feet from the house, exhaust pointed away, CO alarms working inside.
- The order is simple: fuel valve open, choke to start, eco off, then start; let it warm, choke to run, then plug in one thing at a time — never over the rating.
- Shut down in order — unplug, let it cool, turn it off, close the fuel valve — and note when the break-in oil change is due.
- Practice on a calm day so it's familiar before you ever need it — and I'm a phone call away for the first one.

Your First Start at a Glance

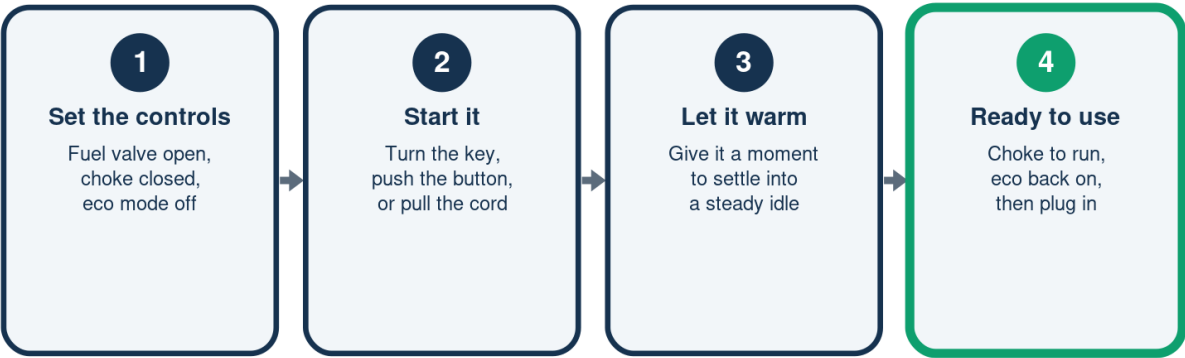
Box to power, in six calm moves

	What you do	Why it matters
First	Add oil (ships dry)	Running dry ruins it
Then	Add fresh fuel	Stale gas won't start
Outside	Set it 20 feet out	The exhaust is deadly
Start	Valve, choke, go	Let it warm a bit
Plug in	One at a time	Stay under the rating
Shut down	Cool it, then off	Ready for next time

Take it slow on a calm day — every start goes outside, 20 feet from the house.

The Start Sequence

Slowly, in order — you can't hurt it



Your manual may word it a little differently — when in doubt, it wins.

Reading the Indicator Lights

Three simple messages on the front

	What it means	What to do
Running	All is well	Nothing — carry on
Overload	Too many watts	Unplug something
Low oil	Oil low, it stops	Stop and add oil

Colors and symbols vary by model — check your manual for yours.

How Did the First Start Go?

Whatever happens, there's a calm next step

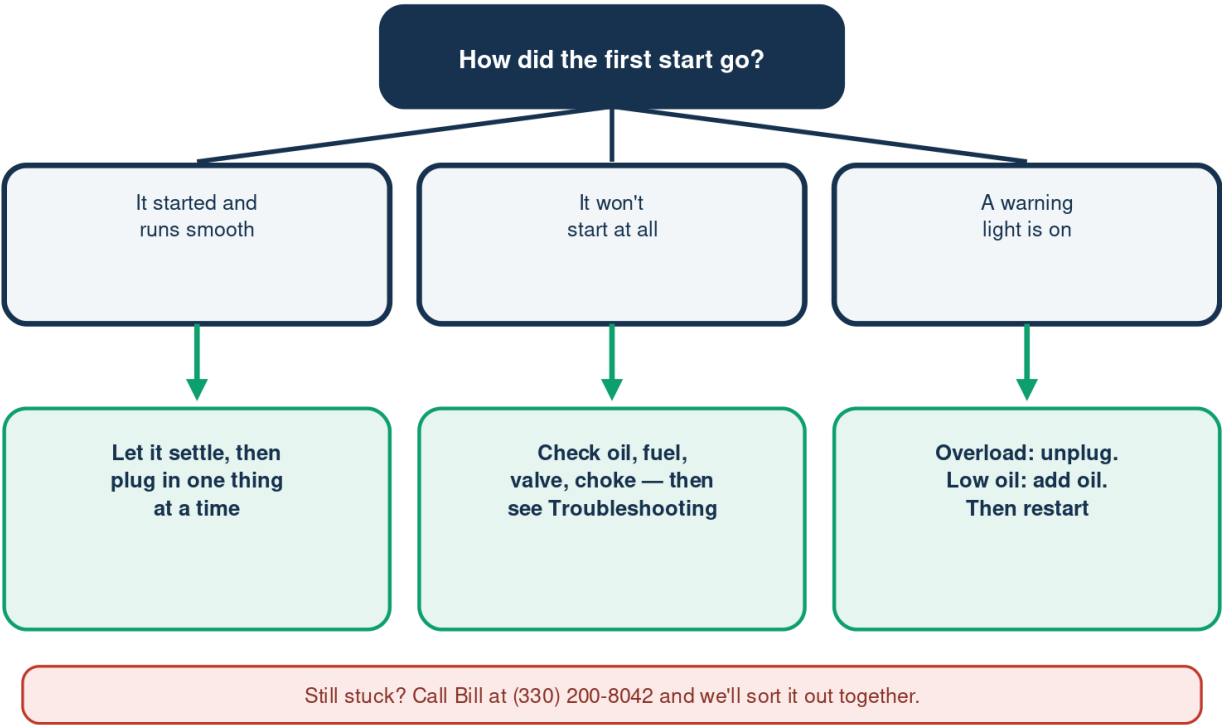


Illustration - a schematic, not to scale. Your setup may differ.



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

Use of these guides is subject to our Terms of Use (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