



Best lithium battery home generators

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The best portable generators are easy to use and reliable, so you can be prepared for extreme weather and unexpected power outages. After reviewing dozens of options and analyzing the specs of each, we named the Champion 5500 Dual-Fuel the best portable generator overall due to its versatile fuel sources and high-wattage output that can power a wide range of appliances (everything from a portable heater to a refrigerator). If you're on a budget, we recommend the DuroStar DS4000S as the best value option.

Whatever you're preparing for, a portable generator can become a critical part of your backup plan as power emergencies occur more often. These are the eight best portable generators, according to our research. And for more gear, check out our guides on the best emergency radios and the best emergency food supplies.

The Champion 5,500 Dual-Fuel Portable Generator is a versatile option that can run on gasoline or propane and includes a fuel selector switch to toggle between fuel sources. The 389cc engine produces 6,875 starting watts and 5,500 running watts when using gasoline, allowing you to connect everything from a portable heater to a refrigerator. The 6-gallon gas tank is enough to run for 10 hours at 50% load; a 20-pound propane tank can produce 6,250 starting watts and 5,000 running watts and run for 6.5 hours at 50% load.

DuroMax's DuroStar DS4000S provides good value for the features you get. The generator runs on gasoline and offers 4,000 peak watts and 3,300 running watts, giving you plenty of power to run appliances or tools at a job site. It comes enclosed in a metal cage with two handles on top so you can move it from place to place. While it doesn't come with wheels, you can purchase an optional wheel kit for about \$50; otherwise, at 102 pounds with gasoline, it may require two people to move and position it.

The DS4000S features a click start switch, and once it's running, the volt meter will tell you the output voltage. There's also a low oil light and an automatic low oil shutdown feature. The 4-gallon tank can provide up to 26 hours of runtime at 25% load or 12 hours at 50% load. For the price, the DuroStar DS4000S is an excellent portable generator that's durable and dependable, whether you're at home or on the job.

The Goal Zero Yeti 3000X is a workhorse power station capable of keeping your lights on during an outage. The massive lithium-ion battery features a 2,000-watt AC inverter (with 3,500-watt surge capability), allowing it to power everything you need, from household appliances to a portable fridge. The power station doesn't produce emissions and is virtually silent so you can safely use it indoors.

You can recharge the Yeti 300X in about 14 hours using a wall outlet or there are optional 200-watt solar panels that can recharge it in about a day. It also features a telescoping handle and wheels to roll it around your property, campground or job site. Meanwhile, Goal Zero rates the battery's life at 500 cycles to 80% so it should last for a long time, depending on your usage. The one major downside is the Yeti 3000X isn't cheap, but it's a well-rounded alternative to gas-powered options.

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Similar to our best overall pick, we like the Champion Power 4500 Dual-Fuel portable generator because it can run on gas or propane. Support for multiple fuels makes it an excellent choice for various occasions whether you're tailgating, camping or providing power to essential appliances during a blackout. It offers 4,500 starting watts and 3,500 running watts with up to 14 hours of run time on gasoline at 25% load. You can get up to 21 hours of run time on propane at 25% load, but the running watts are slightly lower at 3,150.

Champion's portable generator also includes a convenient electric start, a low oil shut-off sensor and relatively quiet operation at 61 dB. It's also versatile; if you want to increase output, it supports an optional parallel kit that allows you to connect up to two 3,000-watt inverters. Further, it includes a 30A RV-ready outlet, making this an enticing choice for road warriors.

Weighing 31 pounds and equipped with a battery that offers a 983-watt-hour capacity, the Goal Zero Yeti 1000 Core is tailor-made for camping. It boasts seven output port options including two 120-volt AC wall-style outlets, a 12-volt car plug-style outlet, two USB-A ports and two 60-watt fast-charging USB-C ports. It can output 1,200 watts and surge as high as 2,400 watts which should support any device you need. For some context, Goal Zero estimates you can recharge a smartphone (12-watt-hours) up to 82 times or run a mini fridge (35-watt-hours) for 28 hours.

We like Champion's 2500-Watt Dual Fuel Generator if you only need to power on the go. The generator is about the size of carry-on luggage and weighs only 39 pounds. The small, sturdy design makes it an excellent choice for barbecues, overlanding or using at a job site, but it's also powerful enough for home use. Wherever you decide to take it, a built-in handle makes it easy to pick up and carry.

In addition to its ultra-portable size, the Champion Power 2500 has plenty to offer, starting with the ability to run on gas or propane. The inverter technology also means you get clean electricity, which allows you to connect sensitive electronics. The generator operates at 53 decibels with 2,500 starting watts for both propane and gasoline, and has a runtime of 11.5 hours at 25% load. You can also purchase an optional parallel kit and connect another 2,500-watt Champion inverter to double your output.

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