



BALDWIN COUNTY GENERATORS

Home Standby Generator Sizing Guide

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A no-nonsense guide to picking the right size standby generator for your home in Baldwin County, Alabama - built for our heat, humidity, and hurricane season.

Why Sizing Matters

An undersized generator will trip, overheat, and fail when you need it most - usually mid-storm. An oversized one wastes thousands of dollars upfront and burns extra fuel every week it runs its self-test. The right size keeps your essentials on, runs cool, and lasts 20+ years.

Step 1: Decide What You Want to Power

Most Baldwin County homes fall into one of three categories. Pick the one that matches your priorities:

Coverage Level	What Stays On	Typical Size
Essentials	Fridge, lights, internet, a few outlets, 1 window AC	10 - 14 kW
Whole Home (popular)	Central AC, kitchen, laundry, well pump, full lighting	18 - 24 kW
Large / Luxury Home	2+ AC units, pool, EV charger, kitchen	26 - 36 kW

Step 2: Account for Your Central AC

In Baldwin County, AC is not optional - it is the load that drives sizing. Use this rough rule:

AC Tonnage	Approx. Starting Load	Min. Generator Size
2 ton (24,000 BTU)	~7 kW surge	14 kW
3 ton (36,000 BTU)	~10 kW surge	18 kW
4 ton (48,000 BTU)	~13 kW surge	22 kW
5 ton (60,000 BTU)	~16 kW surge	24 - 26 kW
Two units (3 + 3 ton)	~18 kW combined surge	26 kW

Tip: a soft-start kit on your AC can drop the surge load by 60-70% and let a smaller generator handle a bigger home.

Step 3: Add the Other Big Loads

Add these to your AC load if you want them to run during an outage:

Appliance	Running Watts	Surge Watts
Electric water heater	4,500 W	4,500 W
Well pump (1 HP)	1,500 W	4,500 W
Electric range	5,000 W	5,000 W
Electric dryer	5,400 W	6,750 W
Refrigerator	700 W	2,200 W
Pool pump (1.5 HP)	1,800 W	5,400 W
EV charger (Level 2)	7,200 W	7,200 W
Microwave	1,000 W	1,000 W
Lights & outlets (whole home)	1,500 W	1,500 W

Baldwin County Considerations

Heat & humidity: Our summer ambient temps push generators harder than the spec sheet. Size up one tier if your unit will sit in full sun on the south side of the house.

Hurricane outages: Plan for 5-10 day runtime, not 24 hours. Natural gas is the most reliable fuel on the Eastern Shore - propane is a strong second if you have a 500+ gallon tank.

Salt air (Gulf Shores, Orange Beach, Fairhope waterfront): Choose an aluminum enclosure - steel will rust through in 3-5 years.

Permits: Baldwin County requires an electrical permit and gas permit for standby installs. A licensed installer handles this for you.

Quick Recommendation by Home Size

Home Size	Layout	Recommended Generator
Under 1,800 sq ft	1 AC unit, gas appliances	14 kW
1,800 - 2,800 sq ft	1 AC, electric range/dryer	18 - 22 kW
2,800 - 4,000 sq ft	2 AC units, full electric	24 - 26 kW
Over 4,000 sq ft	2+ AC, pool, EV	26 - 36 kW

Want a precise size for YOUR home?

We will do a **free in-home load calculation** and give you a written quote - no pressure, no obligation.

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