Generator wattage chart

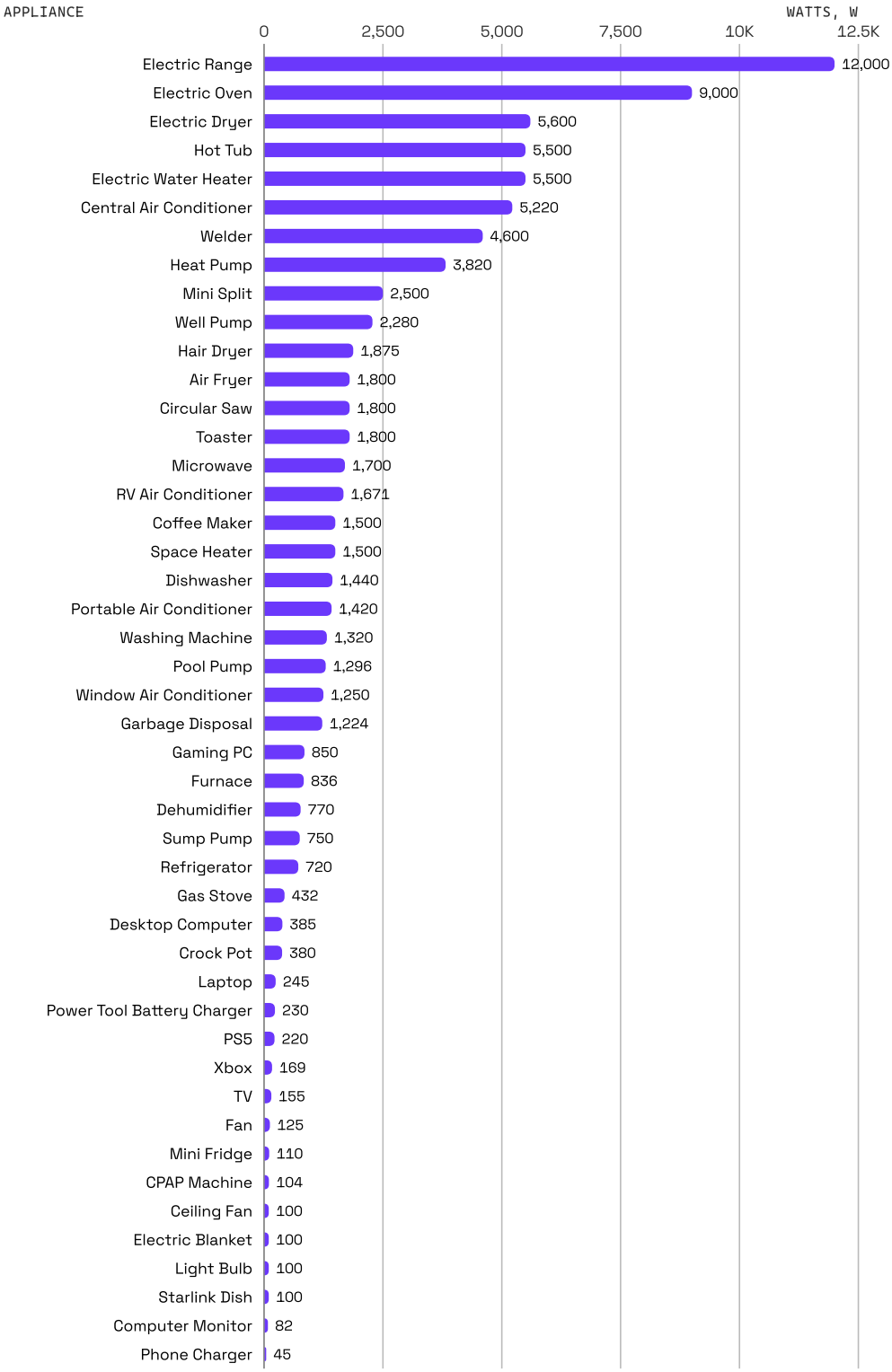
A refrigerator needs up to 720 running watts and about 720 starting watts, so a 2,000 W generator runs it with room for the start-up surge. Add the running watts of everything you want on at once, then add the largest single starting surge.

Running and starting watts of common appliances with a conservative generator size for each

APPLIANCE	RUNNING WATTS	STARTING WATTS	GENERATOR, CONSERVATIVE
Electric Range	12,000	—	12,000 W
Electric Oven	9,000	—	10,000 W
Electric Dryer	5,600	—	7,500 W
Hot Tub	5,500	—	from nameplate LRA
Electric Water Heater	5,500	—	7,500 W
Central Air Conditioner	5,220	—	from nameplate LRA
Welder	4,600	—	5,000 W
Heat Pump	3,820	—	from nameplate LRA
Mini Split	2,500	—	from nameplate LRA
Well Pump	2,280	—	from nameplate LRA
Hair Dryer	1,875	—	2,000 W
Air Fryer	1,800	—	2,000 W
Circular Saw	1,800	—	from nameplate LRA
Toaster	1,800	—	2,000 W
Microwave	1,700	—	2,000 W
RV Air Conditioner	1,671	—	from nameplate LRA
Coffee Maker	1,500	—	2,000 W
Space Heater	1,500	—	2,000 W

APPLIANCE	RUNNING WATTS	STARTING WATTS	GENERATOR, CONSERVATIVE
Dishwasher	1,440	—	2,000 W
Portable Air Conditioner	1,420	—	from nameplate LRA
Washing Machine	1,320	—	from nameplate LRA
Pool Pump	1,296	—	from nameplate LRA
Window Air Conditioner	1,250	—	from nameplate LRA
Garbage Disposal	1,224	—	from nameplate LRA
Gaming PC	850	—	2,000 W
Furnace	836	—	from nameplate LRA
Dehumidifier	770	—	from nameplate LRA
Sump Pump	750	—	from nameplate LRA
Refrigerator	720	—	from nameplate LRA
Gas Stove	432	—	2,000 W
Desktop Computer	385	—	2,000 W
Crock Pot	380	—	2,000 W
Laptop	245	—	2,000 W
Power Tool Battery Charger	230	—	2,000 W
PS5	220	—	2,000 W
Xbox	169	—	2,000 W
TV	155	—	2,000 W
Fan	125	—	2,000 W
Mini Fridge	110	—	from nameplate LRA
CPAP Machine	104	—	2,000 W
Ceiling Fan	100	—	2,000 W
Electric Blanket	100	—	2,000 W
Light Bulb	100	—	2,000 W
Starlink Dish	100	—	2,000 W
Computer Monitor	82	—	2,000 W

APPLIANCE	RUNNING WATTS	STARTING WATTS	GENERATOR, CONSERVATIVE
Phone Charger	45	—	2,000 W



Running and starting watts by appliance.

How to size a generator from the chart

Running watts use the high end of each appliance's range. Starting watts are shown for motors and compressors, which draw several times their running power for a second or two. The conservative size is the smallest common generator (2,000, 3,500, 5,000, 7,500, 10,000, 12,000 W) whose running rating alone covers the start-up surge; a generator with a high surge rating can be smaller.

Central air conditioners and heat pumps have no starting figure here because their surge depends heavily on the unit and on soft-start equipment. Use the locked-rotor amps (LRA) on the outdoor unit's nameplate.

SOURCES

- ▶ 185 published documents, checked on 2026-11-13

Methodology. For planning only: check local code and use a licensed electrician.