



MASTER  
ELECTRICIANS  
AUSTRALIA



## Generators: Buying Guide

### BEFORE PURCHASING A GENERATOR, YOU MUST CONSIDER WHAT IT WILL BE USED FOR.

Will you be using a portable generator to take camping, or will it be used as a standby generator for your home in case of a power outage?

**Follow this flow chart to work out which generator may be best to purchase:**

**Used with directly  
connected plug-in  
appliances**



Can either incorporate an RCD or be an inverter/isolated type.



Discuss sizing with your sales person.



**Connected via an  
extension lead & appliance  
inlet to your home**



**RCD type NOT to be used.** An inverter or isolated type must be used.



Discuss sizing with your Electrical Contractor.



A Changeover Switch and Appliance Inlet needs to be installed.



The supply lead will need to be the correct type - check with your Electrical Contractor.

**Hard-wired  
connection  
to your home**



**RCD type is NOT recommended,** as modifications may need to be made.

An inverter type is best.



Discuss sizing with your Electrical Contractor.



A Changeover Switch and Hard-wiring to Generator needs to be installed.

**If you are using a plug-in type generator:** the supply lead from the generator to your house will need to be connected via a generator inlet socket and changeover switch. Consult your electrical contractor to have the correct one installed for your generator size.

**Never use a suicide lead to connect your generator** to your house's general purpose outlets. For more information on this dangerous practice [view the suicide lead fact sheet on the MEA website](#).

**The following label is required to be fitted to the inlet socket:**

AS/NZS3010 Clause: 4.3.2.5

**ISOLATED output generating set only.**

**RCD protected and centre tapped  
generating sets shall not be connected.**

## OTHER USEFUL INFORMATION



**Gas or fume poisoning is not to be taken lightly.**

Generators need to be placed in well ventilated areas, preferably outside where exhaust gases, smoke or fumes cannot reach dangerous levels or enter any areas that people may occupy. Generators must also not be exposed to the weather unless they are suitably rated.

**Care must be taken with the positioning of the generator.**

Ensure refueling can be performed easily. High temperature surfaces or equipment that may emit arcs or sparks may cause ignition when refueling. Always turn off your generator when refueling.

**Always read and follow your manufacturer's instructions.**

Before using your generator make sure your generator is properly maintained so it is ready for use when it is needed.

In most cases the best all-purpose generator is an inverter type generator like the Honda EU, Yamaha EF or Briggs and Stratton P series. However, if you have questions about the type of generator that is most suitable for you, please consult your local **Master Electrician**.

For further help and advice, contact:

**[masterelectricians.com.au](http://masterelectricians.com.au)**

**1300 889 189**



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