

Generator Switch on gas furnace

Bob Brown gives a brief look at how you can get your natural gas furnace running if the power is out. During the 2024 ice storm a number of homes were without power for several days. With the proper switch you can run your furnace when the power is out using a generator or battery inverter pack.

- A gas furnace can run if it has electrical power from a generator or a battery pack with an inverter. But the furnace must be modified with a “**generator switch**” to be able to accept power from the generator or battery inverter. The **EZ Generator Switch** shown below is an example of such a switch which can be found on Amazon for \$100. Installation can be done by an electrician or a furnace technician, total cost could be \$300-400 for the device and installation.
- After the switch is installed an extension cord is used to connect the furnace with the generator or battery inverter.
- Once the cord is connected and generator started or battery inverter turned on, the switch is pushed to use the power from that device rather than the house wiring. The generator can provide power for as long as it has fuel. The battery inverter will provide power until the battery is exhausted.
- When house power is restored, you will need to push the switch back to the NORMAL position to use house power.
- This is a good time of year to engage your gas furnace technician to have a “generator switch” installed.

The Original, Patented, UL/CSA Approved Manual Transfer Switch

Brand: [EZ Generator Switch](#)

\$98.99



There are many **battery inverter** packs available on Amazon. (I have not tested any of them.)

- A battery inverter with at least 850Wh of power should run the typical modern gas furnace for about 6 hours.
- Larger battery inverters, e.g. over 1000Wh of stored power, could last several hours longer. When the battery inverter is exhausted it can be taken somewhere that has power and be recharged (this may take several hours).
- Price of a battery inverter depends on the **Watt hours** (Wh) of power stored and cost from \$700-\$1500.

						
Sponsored	Sponsored	Sponsored	Sponsored	Sponsored	Sponsored	Sponsored
BLUETTI Portable Power Station AC200MAX, 2048Wh Solar Generator Expandable to 8192Wh... ★★★★☆ 702	EF ECOFLOW Portable Power Station DELTA 1300, 1260Wh Solar Powered Generator... ★★★★☆ 1,891	Dabbson Portable Power Station DBS2300, 2330Wh EV Semi-solid State LiFePO4 Home... ★★★★☆ 71	Segway Portable Power Station Cube 1000, 1260Wh Solar Generator, 1024Wh LiFePO4... ★★★★☆ 2	EF ECOFLOW Solar Generator DELTA 2 Max 2048Wh with 220W Solar Panel, LiFePO4... ★★★★☆ 472	BLUETTI Portable Power Station EB705, 716Wh LiFePO4 Battery Backup w/ 4 800W AC Outlets... ★★★★☆ 928	EBL Portable Power Station Voyager 1000, 110V/1000W Solar Generator(Surge... ★★★★☆ 118
Limited time deal \$1,249.00 List: \$1,699.00 (26% off)	Limited time deal \$749.00 (\$1.51/bd) prime List: \$1,099.00 (32% off)	Limited time deal \$1,019.00 prime List: \$1,599.00 (36% off)	Limited time deal \$700.00 prime List: \$999.99 (30% off)	Limited time deal \$1,698.00 List: \$2,499.00 (32% off)	Limited time deal \$399.00 List: \$599.00 (33% off)	Limited time deal \$499.00 Save \$100.00 with coupon List: \$709.00 (30% off)

There are also many **gasoline powered generators** on Amazon. (I have not tested any of them.)

- The gasoline generators must be operated outdoors, and require fresh fuel and make noise and may be difficult to start if left unused for months or years.
- Price of a gasoline powered generator depends on the **Watt** (W) power-rating and cost from

				
Generac 7690 GP6500 6,500-Watt Gas-Powered Portable Generator - Powerrush Advanced... ★★★★☆ 184	GENMAX Portable Inverter Generator, 3300W Ultra-Quiet Gas Engine, EPA... ★★★★☆ 1,567	Champion Power Equipment 100891 9375/7500-Watt Dual Fuel Portable... ★★★★☆ 533	Honda 664240 EU2200i 2200 Watt Portable Inverter Generator with Co-Minder ★★★★☆ 1,873	PowerSmart 3500-Watt Portable Inverter Generator Gas Powered, RV-Ready, Super Quiet... ★★★★☆ 547
\$899.00 prime	\$599.00 prime Save \$100.00 with coupon (some sizes/colors)	\$999.99 prime	\$1,099.00	\$499.99 prime

\$700-\$1500.