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 <u>extension cord</u> 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

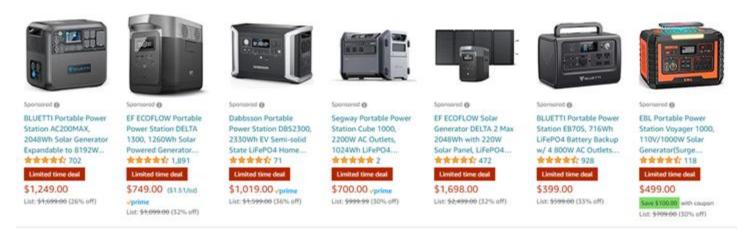
Brand: EZ Generator Switch

\$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.



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

- The gasoline generators must be operated <u>outdoors</u>, 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



\$700-\$1500.