

WHY A 10KW GENERATOR IS NOT A TRUE WHOLE HOUSE GENERATOR PART 2

Well my last week's article sure sparked an interest. I had a couple other installers call me and found the article disturbing. They both said that they install 10KW about 90% of the time and very rarely have a problem, and when ever there is a problem, the customer is using too much at the same time.

So me, with the bad hearing and all, asked them to repeat it, and they did. 'We install 10KW generators most of the time, and the only times there is a problem, it is because the customer is not careful and is using too much at the same time.'

That opened the door for another question I asked, if you follow the requirement of sizing to 80% of continuous load, a 10KW would only give about 33.3 amps of power. Since the generator breaker will not trip off until it hits 50 amps, you will shorten the life of the generator. (remember running you car at 120 miles an hour is doable, but do that for 24 hours straight, and you will probably blow your engine or seriously damage it)

One replied, but a generator engine and a car engine is not the same. I agreed with him, I said a generator engine is more fragile than a car engine.

The other one said, the customer should know better than to do that. I asked him if he explained that to the customer before the sale, and he said they wouldn't understand the 80% rule, so he doesn't try.

Then one made a comment that I have 'promoted' cold weather kits, and he has never put them on except when needed if there was a problem. On hindsight, I should have asked him to repeat that again (due to my bad hearing of course), or maybe I should have said that's why I get a lot of trouble calls in October of every year for generators not starting, and I have to replace cracked batteries and then put in a cold weather kit.

Last week I asked my readers to look at what their loads in the house were. Of course, you can't just add up breakers, as the breakers are overcurrent protection devices that will allow the amperage up to the amount on the breaker, a 20 amp breaker will allow that circuit to use up to 20 amps before tripping, however, very rarely will that circuit be drawing 20 amps (remember the 80% rule, it applies here also)

Most items will have a tag noting the amperage, and that should be used in your calculations.

I got sidetracked this week, but felt I should share these two phone calls. Next week we will continue talking about the 10kw.

On a quick note, we were up at the Fryeburg Flower and Garden Show this past weekend, and I had someone stop at our booth to set up an appointment to replace his generator. He said every time he used items in his house, the generator would 'drag and bear down', and was afraid it would burn out. He said he thinks it was undersized. His generator size was a 12KW

See you next week, and do your homework. You will be able to take the information you gathered, and determine the size of generator you will need.

If you have any questions, please forward them to dirfygenerators@yahoo.com, and we will try and answer them. We will also answer some of the questions in future articles. Is there a specific topic you would like us to cover? E-mail us and we will try and cover it