

How to Start your Air Conditioner with a Generator

A generator **IS NOT** a direct replacement for a plug-in electrical connection. Regular electrical connections can supply up to 10,000 watts for short periods of time (surge). This is almost 3 times the maximum amount a generator can supply. As such plug-in connections can easily start high draw items even when other high draw items are running. Generators have a much lower surge rate so care must be taken when starting a high draw item like an air conditioner (AC).

Using the procedure below will ensure your AC starts every time while ensuring you do not encounter a “brown out” condition that could potentially damage your AC unit.

1. Ensure all other High draw items are either running in “Gas” mode or are turned off. This includes the hot water heater, refrigerator, microwave, convection oven, hair dryers, toasters and coffee makers.

NOTE – Some hot water heaters have the electric element switch on the outside of the RV behind the water heater panel. Ensure you check here even if you think your unit does not have an electric element. Many customers discover that they do indeed have an electric element and switch and that it has been “On” since they purchased their RV.



2. With the generator NOT running, connect the trailer to the generator.
3. Set the “Econ” throttle on the generator to the “On” position and start the generator.



4. Allow the generator to run for about 30 seconds to “settle”. Then switch the “Econ” throttle to the “Off” position. The generators RPMs should increase.

- Back inside the trailer set the fan switch on your thermostat to the “On” position (switch is usually in the “Auto” position). Some RVs may have a different type of thermostat with a different method of accomplishing this. The goal is to simply turn the AC fan on without turning on the compressor.



- Allow the fan to run for alone for 20-30 seconds. Then turn on “Cool” mode on the thermostat. You will hear the AC compressor engage and the may hear generator increase in RPMs to compensate for the large draw. It will take a few seconds for both to settle.



- Once the AC is running normally you should be able to turn some items back on. You need to be cautious as your AC may be drawing as high at 1800 watts while running. This only leaves 1200 watts remaining and a typical coffee maker can draw 1000 watts.

Power usage guide		
Appliances	Wattage Required For Starting	Running Wattage Requirements
RV Hot Water Heater	1500	1500
Coffee Maker	1000	1000
Toaster	720	720
Dishwasher	540	216
Electric Frying	1500	1500
Microwave Oven	1800	1200
RV Refrigerator	450	450
Furnace Fan	500	300
Radio	50-200	50-200
Television Flat Panel (20")	300	70-300
Laptop Computer	200-250	200-250
Desktop Computer	300	300
<p>*Keep in mind that many times you will have multiple items running. You may have items running in the "background" like a converter, inverter or refrigerator. If you need more power, turn these items off or down or over to propane. All power usage ratings are approximate and based our experiences.</p>		