

# The Battle of the Home Standby Generator

Generac vs. Kohler vs. Cummins

SOUTHWEST FLORIDA  
ELECTRIC  Inc.



## When it comes to choosing a home standby generator, you have a ton of options.

This type of permanently installed unit is designed to kick on automatically during an outage, and comes in various different brands and wattages—with their own special features.

We're taking a look at three of the top brands of home generators, comparing similar models side-by-side to help you find a partial or full-home generator for your needs.

Let's see how these three comparable Generac, Kohler and Cummins standbys “stand-up” against one another.



# Small-Sized Partial-House Standby Generators

A generator from anywhere to 7-11 kW can often power basic circuits in your home, such as your fridge, sump pump, garage door, etc. It's a wattage that typically supports the "essentials" and is often ideal for small homes or partial home functionality during an outage.

Check out these three similar generators: Generac's Guardian 11 kW, Kohler's RESV 12 kW and Cummins' QuietConnect 13 kW in this helpful chart

## THE WINNER Cummins' QuietConnect

**SOUND LEVEL.** Although the Generac can thank its Quiet-Test low-speed mode for its superior noise levels, Cummins QuietConnect directly competes and runs significantly less loud than the Kohler model.

**WATTAGE.** The Cummins model in this comparison has the highest wattage, granting you 1,000 units more than Kohler and 2,000 more than Generac. That means more power for your electronics!



[Generac's Guardian 11 kW](#)



[Cummins' QuietConnect 13kW](#)



[Kohler's RESV 12 kW](#)

|                            |   |                              |                              |
|----------------------------|---|------------------------------|------------------------------|
| <b>Power Type</b>          | Liquid Propane / Natural Gas                              | Liquid Propane / Natural Gas | Liquid Propane / Natural Gas |
| <b>Wattage*</b>            | 11,000 LP/10,000 NG                                       | 13,000 LP/13,000 NG          | 12,000 LP/11,000 NG          |
| <b>Noise Level</b>         | 64 dBA (or 58 dBA in Quiet-Test™ low-speed exercise mode) | 65 dBA                       | 71 dBA                       |
| <b>Warranty</b>            | 5-Year  | 5-Year                       | 5-Year                       |
| <b>Engine Type</b>         | Generac's G-Force   | Cummins Onan                 | Kohler 7000 V-Twin           |
| <b>Housing</b>             | NEMA/UL 3R Aluminum Enclosure                             | Aluminum                     | Steel                        |
| <b>LCD Display</b>         | ✓   | ✗                            | ✓                            |
| <b>Remote Monitoring</b>   | ✓   | ✓                            | ✓                            |
| <b>Customer Support</b>    | ✓   | ✓                            | ✓                            |
| <b>Overload Protection</b> | ✓   | ✓                            | ✗                            |

\*NG = Natural Gas, LP = Liquid Propane

### SHOUTOUTS: GENERAC

Though all three brands offer generous customer support, Generac's generator comes with free remote monitor through Mobile Link, which gives you access to your generator via your smartphone or tablet.

### SHOUTOUTS: KOHLER

Kohler also offers a feature like Generac's remote monitoring, which they call their OnCue Plus Generator Management System, but it's for an additional fee.

## Medium-Sized Partial-House Standby Generators

These medium-sized generators often pack enough punch to power your essential circuits as well as a few comfort items. For instance, they are typically used to power living room outlets, indoor lighting and your alarm system— if you have one— in addition to all the basics mentioned in the small-sized generator category.

We're comparing Generac's Guardian 16 kW, Kohler's RCA 14 kW and Cummin's QuietConnect 17 kW generators to the right..

### THE WINNER Generac Guardian

**MORE FEATURES.** The Guardian checks all the extra features boxes in our comparison, unlike the Cummins model without an LCD screen and the Kohler model without overload protection.

**BUILD QUALITY.** Generac's G-Force Engine is pressure-lubricated and durable, often recognized as the most reliable and [requiring less routine maintenance than any competitive engine.](#)



[Generac's  
Guardian 16kW](#)



[Cummins'  
QuietConnect 17kW](#)



[Kohler's  
RCA 14kW](#)

|                            |                               |                              |                               |
|----------------------------|-------------------------------|------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| <b>Power Type</b>          | Liquid Propane / Natural Gas  | Liquid Propane / Natural Gas | Liquid Propane / Natural Gas  |
| <b>Wattage*</b>            | 16,000 LP/15,000 NG           | 17,000 LP/17,000 NG          | 14,000 LP/12,000 NG           |
| <b>Noise Level</b>         | 67 dBA                        | 65 dBA                       | 67 dBA                        |
| <b>Warranty</b>            | 5-Year                        | 5-Year                       | 5-Year                        |
| <b>Engine Type</b>         | Generac's G-Force Engine      | Cummins Onan                 | Kohler Command PRO OHV engine |
| <b>Housing</b>             | NEMA/UL 3R Aluminum Enclosure | Aluminum                     | Corrosion-Resistant Aluminum  |
| <b>LCD Display</b>         | ✓                             | X                            | ✓                             |
| <b>Remote Monitoring</b>   | ✓                             | ✓                            | ✓                             |
| <b>Customer Support</b>    | ✓                             | ✓                            | ✓                             |
| <b>Overload Protection</b> | ✓                             | ✓                            | X                             |

\*NG = Natural Gas, LP = Liquid Propane

# Large-Sized Whole-House Standby Generators

If you don't want to go without any luxuries, a 20 kW generator is likely an ideal fit. These units can typically power multiple large air conditioners alongside hot water heaters and a well pump. This is a great wattage for those who would like to maintain all their regular household operations during an outage, including outdoor lighting and sometimes your entire electrical panel. Large houses can often require more “commercial” power, but a 20 kW generally does the trick for most homeowners!

Analyze these three comparable models, Generac's Guardian 20kW, Kohler's RESC 20kW and Cummin's QuietConnect 20kW generator, side by side.

## THE WINNER Kohler's RESC

**QUICK START.** This Kohler generators can automatically power your AC or heat, sump pump and major appliances like your fridge and oven in only 10 seconds, thanks to Powerboost™ technology!

**SUPERIOR REPUTATION.** Kohler has been around for over 100 years, and is known for their wide network of suppliers for quick repairs and tune-ups.

**THE ENGINE.** Professionals turn to the power of [Kohler Command PRO OHV engine](#) as a benchmark for commercial power. The fact that it's on a residential unit proves this generators strength!



[Generac's  
Guardian 20kW](#)



[Cummins  
QuietConnect 20kW](#)



[Kohler's  
RESC 20kW](#)

|                            |                              |                              |                               |
|----------------------------|------------------------------|------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| <b>Power Type</b>          | Liquid Propane / Natural Gas | Liquid Propane / Natural Gas | Liquid Propane / Natural Gas  |
| <b>Wattage*</b>            | 20,000 LP/18,000 NG          | 17,000 LP/17,000 NG          | 20,000 LP/18,000 NG           |
| <b>Noise Level</b>         | 67 dBA                       | 65 dBA                       | 69 dBA                        |
| <b>Warranty</b>            | 5-Year                       | 5-Year                       | 5-Year                        |
| <b>Engine Type</b>         | Generac's G-Force Engine     | Cummins Onan                 | Kohler Command PRO OHV Engine |
| <b>Housing</b>             | Corrosion-Resistant Aluminum | Aluminum                     | Corrosion-Resistant Aluminum  |
| <b>LCD Display</b>         | ✓                            | X                            | ✓                             |
| <b>Remote Monitoring</b>   | ✓                            | ✓                            | ✓                             |
| <b>Customer Support</b>    | ✓                            | ✓                            | ✓                             |
| <b>Overload Protection</b> | X                            | ✓                            | X                             |

\*NG = Natural Gas, LP = Liquid Propane

### SHOUTOUTS: CUMMINS

*Running a lot of AC units at your business? Cummin's generators come with Intelligent Load Management for up to four central air conditioners.*

### SHOUTOUTS: GENERAC

*It's a close call between Generac and Kohler across the board. These two models are quite comparable. We equally praise the Guardian, and offer service for it as well.*

## Explore Our Selection of Generators

Don't waste your time researching dozens of brands of generators. Some big names stand apart for their superior reviews and performance— such as our favorite manufacturers: Generac, Kohler and Cummins.

These brands are our preferred providers for their years of reliability and praise, and we're ready to turn you into a believer.

Here at Southwest Florida Electric, we're proud to be fully authorized Generac, Kohler and Cummins service dealers. Meaning, we not only sell these trusted brands, but we are certified to assist you with servicing them— from replacing an old part to a routine check-up.

You get a generator from us, we're going to make sure it's ready when you need the most. That's a promise.



**Explore our generators** and **discover what makes our team at SWFL Electric** different than any other generator supplier or fixer-upper in the area.

