SAFETY TIPS
FOR YOUR GENERATOR

D.I.S.C.

UNDERSTANDING GENERATOR WATTAGE:
A KEY TO SAFE AND EFFECTIVE USE

When operating your generator, it is crucial to adhere to the manufacturer's recommended load capacity. To ensure optimal performance and longevity, <u>generators should generally not be continuously loaded beyond 75%</u> of their maximum rated wattage.

For instance:
- A generator with a 4 kilowatt (kW) running capacity (often listed as 5 kVA) should not have more than 3 kW connected at any given time.
- Similarly, for a smaller generator rated at 3000 watts (3 kW), the connected load should not exceed 2.2 kilowatts (kW).

It's important to understand that the stated <u>wattage on a generator</u> (e.g., 3000 watts) <u>often represents its peak or maximum output</u>, not its continuous operational capacity. **For most domestic applications**, maintaining a load at or below 75% of the continuous rating is advisable. For example, a 2-kilowatt kettle would be near the maximum continuous rating of a 3-kilowatt generator.

When connecting multiple appliances, adopt a <u>stepwise approach</u>. Plug them in one at a time, rather than all at once. This allows the generator to gradually adjust to the increasing load.

Pay attention to the generator's sound: an overloaded generator will often produce a strained or "gurgling" sound. Attempting to run a generator beyond its capacity, such as plugging in a high-wattage appliance like a kettle followed immediately by a microwave, will likely overload the unit, causing it to stall and potentially leading to damage.

Be aware that some seemingly low-wattage devices, such as LED floodlights, can have a very high "inrush current" when first switched on. This means their <u>initial power draw is significantly higher</u> than their continuous running current. Therefore, it is best practice **to power on one appliance**, allow the generator to stabilize for a moment, and then connect the next. For smaller generators, you may even need to unplug one appliance before connecting another to prevent overloading.