

Camping / Domestic Appliances: Typical Power Usage

When camping on a site with electric hookup, it is always handy to know just what electrical appliances you can use on any given camp site. Obviously, the total power you can use will depend on the rating of the site involved. Most sites, in the UK, are either 10 Amp or 13 Amp, although some can be rated as highly as 16 Amp, and, for safety purposes, some sites may have their output limited, as low as 6 Amps, in the UK.

OK, so how do we calculate the power of any given site? Well, Watts = Amps x Volts. In the UK, mains power is now at 230 Volts, therefore, the available Watts are equivalent to the site Amps x 230V. For example, a site rated to 10 Amps will allow the use of appliances up to a maximum of 2,300 Watts (230V x 10A).

As a quick guide, the most common site ratings, and their equivalent Watts are as follows:

<u>Site Rating</u>	<u>Watts</u>
6 Amps	1,380
10 amps	2,300
13 amps	2,990
16 Amps	3,680

The main appliances we are likely to take camping with us, and their respective power ratings are as follows:

<u>Appliance</u>	<u>Average Wattage</u>
<u>Entertainment / Leisure</u>	
Clock Radio	10 - 50
LED / LCD TV	50 - 60
DVD / Blu-Ray Player	15
Satellite Dish / Receiver	20 - 30
Laptop	20 - 75
Phone Charger	2 - 5
Games Console	30 - 50
Stereo / Docking Station	150 - 200
Hair Dryer	1,000 - 1,900
Hair Straighteners	80 - 120
Curling Tongues	1,200
Iron	1,000 / 1,500

<u>Appliance</u>	<u>Average Wattage</u>
<u>Heating / Cooling</u>	
Oil Filled Radiator	500 - 1,500
Convector Heater	750 - 2,000
Fan Heater	1,000 - 3,000
Halogen Heater	800 - 1,500
Electric Blanket	200 - 400
Small Aircon Unit	800
Electric Fan (16")	85
<u>Cooking / Food Preparation & Storage</u>	
Mini Oven	1500 - 3,000
Electric Hot Plate	1,200 - 3,000
Microwave (600W - 1,00W Cooking Power)	1,000 - 2,000
Toaster	800 - 1,500
Slow Cooker	250 - 650
Kettle	600
Coffee Maker	600 - 1,200
Mini Fridge	500 - 750
Mini freezer	400 - 800
Cool Box	50 - 60
<u>Other</u>	
Dehumidifier	350
Electric Shaver	20
Hand Vacuum Cleaner	100
Flourescent Light	15 - 40

These are, of course, average ratings, designed to give a guide as to what you can, and can't use together on a site with mains electric hookup. They do not take account of low wattage options that are available, as alternatives, in many cases. Of course, many are also available in 12V versions, as well, including kettles, hair dryers, and, even, microwaves.