

Power for your home or home office for less than ten grand

Load shedding strikes again ...and you've seen adverts selling 1KW inverters for as little as R9000 or so. Can you use one of these to run your laser and computer? Not really. If a proper solar installation is beyond your means, look at one of the many portable solutions available.

The reality is that your small to medium laser needs at least a 3KW inverter - with at least two 100 Ah batteries to run through a two-hour loadshedding episode.

If, however like me, you just want to keep your small or home office running during loadshedding, the 1KW inverter with a single 100Ah Gel battery might work for you. To give you a real-world example, I run :

- 1 x Fibre ONT
- 2 x Fibre routers
- 2 x Desktop computers (one with a 26" screen and one no display server)
- 2 x 10W LED lights
- 1 x Seagate 4 Terabyte local cloud
- 1 x Grandstream VOIP router with 2 portable phones

- At night, I have one less computer (the one with the screen) and I run :
- 1 x DSTV Explora with WiFi
- 2 x Android phone chargers (not always on)
- 1 x 50" smart TV
- 5 x 10W LED lights

And I easily get 2.5 hours out of the single 100Ah battery (down to 80% charge) day and night. I have the Kool Energy 1KW unit.

The main downside is that I have 2 long extension leads - but that is a small price to pay to be able to work during the day and have the TV and a few lights on at night during loadshedding - all for an initial outlay of around R8000 or so.

I don't yet have solar, so I am still reliant on Eskom to top up the battery, but that is the next step.

An inverter converts the DC battery voltage into 220V AC. The result is "clean" power (a pure sine wave). Computers, phones, TVs, printers, Laser machines and more, are sensitive to the quality of the electricity they get. Using "dirty" power (like from a cheaper generator) can damage these devices, and create a safety hazard.

Remember though, no matter what type of inverter you use, always remember that it produces electricity that can be fatal. ALWAYS earth the unit, and NEVER use a reverse plug (often called a suicide plug) to connect to your house plug circuit - power your appliances directly from the inverter.

Prices checked on
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April 2023



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Builders Warehouse



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