

ARTICLE 220: BRANCH CIRCUIT, FEEDER, AND SERVICE CALCULATIONS (DWELLING UNITS)

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RECOGNIZE the difference between *connected load* and *demand load*. For example, if you added up all the light bulbs in a house, the total wattage (connected load) might be 800 watts. Under average use, only a few of these would be used at any one time, maybe 300 watts. This amount --- the expected usage at any one time --- is the *demand load*.

BRANCH CIRCUIT, FEEDER, AND SERVICE CALCULATIONS are based on the DEMAND load, not the connected load. Article 220 provides specific calculations for determining the minimum demand. To arrive at a feeder or service size, compute the branch circuit demands using Part II, add them together, and then apply any feeder/service demands from Parts III or IV.

STEPS TO A DWELLING UNIT CALCULATION:

1. Calculate demand for general lighting & receptacles 220.14 (J)
(3 va per square foot, outside dimensions excluding garages & open porches)
2. Add small appliance demand *(at least two at 1500 va each)* 220.52 (A)
3. Add laundry demand *(1500 va)* 220.52 (B)
4. Add the above together and apply the general lighting demand Table 220.42
(First 3000 va @ 100%, then use demand for balance)
5. Add fixed electric space heating 220.51
(100% of nameplate. If this is higher than the ac load, omit the ac from the calculation. See 220.60 for more information about non-coincident loads.)
6. Add fixed appliance loads 220.53
(Do not include cooking appliances calculated under item #8, and do not include clothes dryers, fixed space heating, or ac. Four or more appliances = 75% of nameplate)
7. Add clothes dryer 220.54
(5000 va minimum, or nameplate if known to be higher)
8. Add cooking appliances rated more than 1.75 kw (ranges, cooktops, ovens) 220.55
(Use Table 220.55 to calculate demand)
9. Add motor loads 220.50
(Use Table 430.248 to determine load (amps x volts = va). Always add 25% of the largest motor load to the calculation per 430.24.)
10. Total items 4 - 9 and divide by the service voltage to determine the minimum amperage required. See Table 240.6 (A) for standard overcurrent device ratings.