

# WHAT IS RUNTIME?

## Related Products

UPS SYSTEMS

## Article Number

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Runtime is the number of minutes the UPS will be able to provide power from the battery for a given load level. Runtime is critically important because it tells how long your equipment will continue to run during a power outage before the UPS battery runs out. Adding more equipment to the UPS, thereby increasing the load, will result in shorter runtime. Runtime can be increased by purchasing a UPS with a larger battery or by adding external battery packs (if your UPS has the option to attach external battery packs).

### Why do I need to enter a minimum and maximum runtime?

All Tripp Lite UPS systems are categorized by their actual runtime for a given load. For example, for a given wattage level, product options might exist for 49, 52, 58, 64, 72 and 80 minutes. If you're looking for 60 minutes of runtime as a target, you'll need to specify the LOWEST and HIGHEST runtime match in order for the selector guide to generate a list of possible options to meet your needs. All 6 options will show a range of 49 to 80 minutes. Set the MINIMUM ACCEPTABLE value to the lowest amount of runtime you would consider. Set the MAXIMUM well above your target runtime to generate a wide range of UPS product matches. In many cases, the most affordable option will be among the ones with the longest runtime, so set your runtime range wide. We need to know what YOUR minimum and maximum runtime needs are.

#### MINIMUM ACCEPTABLE RUNTIME

You might be searching for something that will run for 60 minutes. Is 59 minutes close enough? How about 50? Enter the smallest amount of time you would accept. If your 60-minute value represents a legal requirement, as sometimes applies to fire, safety and telecommunications equipment, then enter 60.

#### MAXIMUM RUNTIME

Set this value well above the target runtime you want to fill. For example, if you're looking for a 60-minute runtime option, enter something considerably higher, such as 90 minutes, or even 2 hours. This will help the selector guide deliver the widest range of product options for your review. You can always adjust it at a later time if there are too many options.

### Why would I set the MAXIMUM RUNTIME for so much longer than I need? Won't that get expensive?

Finding a UPS that runs for exactly 60 minutes - no more, no less - at a given load is going to find few, if any, results. If that range is set to between 55 and 70 minutes, more matches will be found. If you set the range wider still, even more matches will be found. If you're searching for an economical UPS that offers a lot of runtime, it is common for to find the perfect UPS just outside of the runtime range you've

specified. If an economical model that offers the best price and mix of features is available, but offers more runtime than you think you need (in this case 74 minutes), the selector won't pick it as a match unless you specify a runtime range that will include it. Set the MINIMUM RUNTIME extra low and the MAXIMUM RUNTIME extra high. You just might be surprised how affordable some of the longer runtime options can be.