

GENERATOR SAFETY

Portable generators are useful when temporary or remote electric power is needed following a storm or other power outage event, but they also can be hazardous. Carbon monoxide poisoning, electric shock and fire are the primary causes of injury and death that stem from electrical generator use each year. This storm season, use your generator safely by following these simple tips:



1. Read all operating instructions and manufacturer warnings before using the equipment.
2. Always use generators outdoors, away from doors, window and vents.
3. NEVER use generators in homes, garages, basements, crawl spaces, or other enclosed or partially enclosed areas, even with ventilation.
4. If you are connecting a generator into your home electrical system, have a qualified electrician install an emergency power transfer system; or your utility company may be able to install an appropriate transfer switch.
5. Install carbon monoxide alarms in your home as a back-up safety feature; this will warn you of any harmful fumes that may seep in from exterior generator use.
6. Use only heavy-duty, outdoor extension cords to plug appliances directly into the generator. Make sure the entire extension cord is free of cuts or tears, and the plug has all 3 prongs, especially a grounding pin.
7. Before use, inspect portable generators for any damage or loose fuel lines that may have occurred during transportation and/or handling.
8. Dry your hands before touching the generator.
9. NEVER plug a generator into a wall outlet as this can cause fatal electrocution to utility workers trying to repair lines, as well as others served by the same utility transformer.
10. Keep the generator dry by setting it on a covered, elevated surface (i.e., canopy-like structures).
11. Always store fuel outside of living areas in properly labeled, non-glass containers.
12. Before refueling the generator, turn it off and allow it to cool to prevent it from igniting the fuel.
13. Store fuel away from any fuel-burning appliances.