



Generator Safety

Downed utility lines, power company blackouts, heavy snow falls or summer storms can all lead to power outages. For a temporary solution, many people turn to a portable electric generator. Many homeowners are unaware that the improper use of a portable generator can be risky. Keep safety precautions in mind when using this appliance.

SAFETY TIPS

- Generators should be operated in well ventilated locations outdoors away from all doors, windows and vent openings.
- The generator should be placed so that exhaust fumes cannot enter the home through windows, doors or other building openings.
- Install carbon monoxide (CO) alarms in your home. Follow manufacturer's instructions for proper placement and mounting height. Should CO enter the home and pose a risk, an alarm will sound.
- The generator must not be refueled while it is running. It should be turned off and allowed to cool down before refueling.
- Fuel for the generator should never be stored in the home. Gasoline and other flammable liquids should be stored outside of living areas in properly labeled safety containers.
- Appliances should be plugged directly into the generator or a heavy duty outdoor-rated extension cord. The cord should be checked for cuts or tears and that the plug has all three prongs, especially a grounding pin.
- If the generator must be connected to the house wiring to power appliances, a qualified electrician should install a properly rated transfer switch in accordance with the National Electrical Code® (NEC) and all applicable state and local electrical codes.

