

Purchasing a Generator

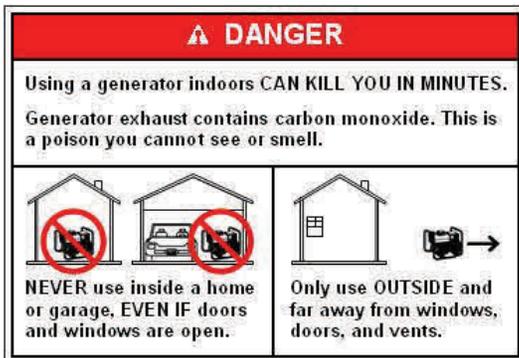


If you choose to buy a generator, make sure you get one that is listed with the Underwriters Laboratory (UL) or Factory Mutual (FM).

Choose a generator that produces more power than will be drawn by the combination of lighting, appliances, and equipment you plan to connect to the generator. Take into consideration the initial surge when turning on the unit.

If your generator does not produce adequate power for all your needs, plan to stagger the operating times for various pieces of equipment. If you cannot determine the amount of power you will need, ask an electrician to determine that for you. If your equipment draws more power than the generator can produce, you may blow a fuse on the generator or damage the connected equipment.

These danger labels are required by the Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC) on all portable generators manufactured or imported as of May 14, 2007.



Basic Safety Tips

- Locate the generator so that exhaust fumes cannot enter the home or structure through windows, doors, or other openings.
- Install a battery operated carbon monoxide (CO) detector in your home or building according to the manufacturer's recommendations. The alarm will sound if CO within the area reaches an unsafe level.



- Never refuel a generator while it is running. Turn it off and let it cool down before refueling.
- Store gasoline and other flammable liquids outside the living area, in a well-ventilated area and in a properly labeled safety container.



Information compiled by Fire Marshal Kenneth Langston

Brochure produced in-house.

PORTABLE GENERATOR SAFETY TIPS



presented by the:

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"Serving Our City, Protecting Our Community"

Shock and Electrocutation



1. Never attach a generator directly to the electrical system of a structure unless a qualified electrician has properly installed the generator with a transfer switch. Attaching a generator directly to a building's electrical system without a properly installed transfer switch can energize wiring systems for great distances, creating a risk of electrocution for utility workers and others.
2. Always plug electrical appliances directly into the generator using manufacturer's recommendations; never use frayed or damaged extension cords. Only use heavy-duty, outdoor-rated cords with a wire gauge adequate for the appliance load. Use only grounded (3-pronged cords). Overloaded cords can cause fires or equipment damage. Avoid running cords under rugs where heat may build up unnoticed.
3. Make sure a generator is properly grounded and the connections are tight.
4. Keep generator dry; do not use it in rain or other wet conditions. If needed, protect a generator with a canopy. Never manipulate a generator's electrical components if you are wet or standing in water.
5. Do not use electrical equipment which has been submerged in water.
6. If equipment develops a strange odor or begins to smoke, power off.

About Carbon Monoxide

Carbon monoxide (CO) is a colorless, odorless, toxic gas. Many people have died from CO poisoning because their generator was not adequately ventilated.



1. Never use a generator indoors or in enclosed spaces such as garages and crawl spaces. Note: open windows and doors may not be enough to prevent CO buildup.
2. Make sure a generator has 3 to 4 feet of clear space on all sides and above it to ensure adequate ventilation.
3. Do not use a generator outdoors if its placement is near doors, windows, vents, and overhangs that could allow CO to enter and buildup in occupied areas.
4. Symptoms of CO poisoning are flu-like and include DIZZINESS, HEADACHES, NAUSEA, TIREDNESS. Get to fresh air immediately and seek medical attention. Do not re-enter the area until it is determined to be safe by trained and properly equipped personnel.

Fire Hazards

1. Generators become hot while running and remain hot for long periods after they are stopped. Fuels can ignite when spilled on hot engine parts. Before refueling, shut down the generator and allow it to cool.
2. Gasoline and other fuels should be stored and transported in approved containers only. They should be properly designed and marked for their contents and vented. (Red for gasoline and yellow for diesel).
3. Keep fuel containers away from flame-producing or heat-generating devices such as the generator, water heaters, cigarettes, lighters, and matches. Do not smoke around fuel containers.



Noise & Vibration Hazards



1. Generator engines vibrate and create noise. Excessive noise and vibration could cause hearing loss and fatigue.
2. Keep portable generators as far away as possible from work areas and gathering spaces.
3. Wear hearing protection if this is not possible.

