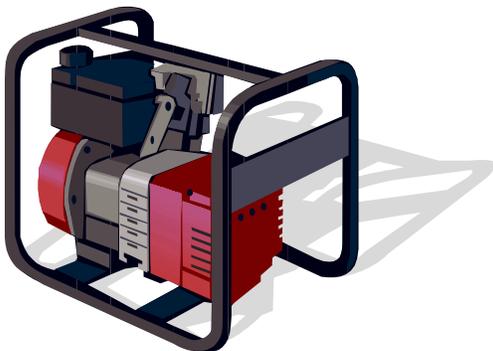


Home Generator Safety

Portable generators are useful when the power is out, but they can be hazardous. The primary hazards to avoid are carbon monoxide (CO) poisoning, electric shock and fire.

Using a Generator Safely During a Power Outage

- ✓ Make sure that your generator produces more power than will be drawn by the things you connect to it, including the initial surge when it is turned on. If the generator does not produce enough power to operate everything at once, stagger the use of your equipment.
- ✓ Follow the directions supplied with the generator.
- ✓ **Never use a portable generator indoors. Opening windows and doors or using fans will NOT prevent carbon monoxide (CO) buildup in the home.**
- ✓ If you start to feel sick, dizzy, or weak while using a generator, get to fresh air immediately.
- ✓ Place the generator away from windows, doors and vents that could allow CO to come indoors.
- ✓ To avoid electrocution, keep the generator dry. Do not use in rainy or wet conditions. Operate it on a dry surface under an open canopy-like structure. Make sure your hands are dry before touching a generator.



Generator Fuel

- ✓ Turn the generator off and let it cool before refueling. Gasoline spilled on hot engine parts could ignite.
- ✓ Store generator fuel in an approved safety can outside of living areas in a locked shed or other protected area.
- ✓ Use only the type of fuel recommended in the generator instructions or on the label.

Connect Your Generator Correctly

- ✓ Plug appliances directly into the generator, or use a heavy-duty, outdoor-rated extension cord that is rated (in watts or amps) at least equal to the sum of the connected appliances.
- ✓ Never try to power house wiring by plugging the generator into a wall outlet. It can lead to electrocution of utility workers or neighbors served by the same utility transformer.
- ✓ The only safe way to connect a generator to house wiring is to have a qualified electrician install a power transfer switch.

Links

<http://www.redcross.org>