

Generator Safety Infographic



GENERATOR SAFETY

USE BACKUP POWER SAFELY

When used properly, portable and standby generators are a great option to provide backup power during brownouts or blackouts.

Learn how to use generators safely with the following tips:

GENERATORS

Location



Always keep generators at **least 20 feet away** from your home



Never operate a generator in an **enclosed space**



Make sure the generator has **3-4 feet** of clear space above and on all sides for proper ventilation



Keep generators **away** from doors, windows, and vents



Always **direct exhaust away** from your home

Use



Always use **grounded cords** and inspect cords for damage prior to use



Use the **proper cord** for the wattage being used



Always use **GFCI protection**



Make sure to start / stop generators when **no electrical loads** are connected



Keep generators **dry, do not operate when wet**, and refuel when **cool**



Do not overload generators



Do not **plug** a generator directly into your home, connect items being powered **directly to the generator**

TRANSFER SWITCHES



Transfer switches, whether manual or automatic, **allow** you to choose between **utility power** or **backup generator power**



Transfer switches are the **only way** to **safely power** your home's electrical system



Using a transfer switch **prevents backfeeding**. This occurs when your generator becomes a power source for the **surrounding area** and can damage your home, your neighbor's homes, and injure workers trying to restore power

CARBON MONOXIDE (CO) POISONING PREVENTION



Improper use and installation of generators could **cause CO poisoning**



CO can kill in as little as **5 minutes**



If you experience CO poisoning symptoms, **get fresh air, do not reenter areas, and call 911.**



Make sure your home has **carbon monoxide alarms** outside each sleeping area and on every **level** of the home

Symptoms of CO poisoning



Dizziness Headaches Nausea Tiredness

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- Keep generators away from door, windows, and vents
- Always direct exhaust away from your home
- Use
 - Always use grounded cords and inspect cords for damage prior to use
 - Use the proper cord for the wattage being used
 - Always use GFCI protection
 - Make sure to start / stop generator when no electrical loads are connected
 - Keep generators dry, do not operate when wet, and refuel when cool
 - Do not overload generators
 - Do not plug a generator directly into your home, connect items being powered directly to the generator

Transfer Switches

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- Transfer switches are the only way to safely power your home's electrical system
- Using a transfer switch prevents backfeeding. This occurs when your generator becomes a power source for the surrounding area and can damage your home, your neighbor's home, and injure workers trying to restore power

Carbon Monoxide (CO) Poisoning Prevention

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- Symptoms of CO poisoning
 - Dizziness
 - Headaches
 - Nausea
 - Tiredness
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