

Operating your emergency generator safely.



A generator can be useful during a power outage, but remember to always follow the manufacturer's instructions to ensure safe and proper operation. To protect your family or business, follow these safety tips:

Be Carbon Monoxide (CO) smart.

- Before using a generator, ensure your home or business has a working CO alarm.
- CO is an odorless, invisible gas produced by gas appliances, including generators.
- CO exposure can cause headaches, dizziness, drowsiness, nausea, vomiting and chest tightness. If you experience any of these symptoms, move to fresh air immediately. Seek medical attention if symptoms persist; death can occur in minutes.

Location is everything.

- Operate the generator outdoors in a well-ventilated location.
- Do not use the generator in a garage, crawl space, basement, or partially enclosed structure.
- Do not locate a generator near a window or door (this also reduces noise).
- Maintain 3-4 feet of clearance on all sides of the generator to maintain adequate ventilation.

Prioritize electrical safety.

- Always use electrical cords rated for the load.
- Avoid electrical shock – don't operate equipment or cords when wet.
- Never connect the generator to the home's electrical circuits unless a licensed electrician has designed and installed an appropriate isolation device.
- Have a fully charged, properly rated fire extinguisher (i.e., rated for electrical and gas fires) ready at all times.

Refuel with care.

- Refuel outdoors in a well-ventilated location.
- Turn off and allow the generator to cool before refueling.
- Do not overfill the fuel tank.
- Store extra fuel away from the generator or other heat sources in an approved container out of children's reach.