

PORTABLE GENERATOR SAFETY

WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW

WHENEVER. WHEREVER.
We'll be there.



Portable generators are useful when temporary or remote electric power is needed. However, they can be hazardous. The primary hazards to avoid when using portable generators are:

- carbon monoxide poisoning;
- electric shock or electrocution; and, fire.

Here are some simple steps you can take to prevent severe injury, potential loss of life and damage to property resulting from the improper use of portable generators.

TO AVOID CARBON MONOXIDE HAZARDS:

- Always use generators outdoors, away from doors, windows and vents.
- NEVER use generators in homes, garages, basements, crawl spaces, or other enclosed or partially enclosed areas, even with ventilation.
- Follow manufacturer's instructions.
- Install battery-operated or plug-in (with battery backup) carbon monoxide (CO) detectors in your home, following manufacturer's instructions.
- Test CO detectors often and replace batteries when needed.

TO AVOID ELECTRICAL HAZARDS:

- Keep the generator dry and protected from rain and snow. Operate on a dry surface under an open, canopy-like structure.
- Dry your hands before touching the generator.
- Plug appliances directly into generator or use a heavy-duty outdoor-rated extension cord. Make sure the entire extension cord is free of cuts or tears and the plug has all 3 prongs, especially a grounding pin.

- NEVER plug the generator into a wall outlet. This practice, known as backfeeding, can cause an electrocution risk to utility workers and others served by the same utility transformer.
- You are not permitted to connect a generator directly to a house wiring system unless you have a properly installed CSA approved transfer switch. An electrical permit is required for the installation and must be inspected by the local electrical inspection authority.
- Use a Ground Fault Circuit Interrupter (GFCI) portable extension cord if using the portable generator to power electrical tools for outdoor use.

TO AVOID FIRE HAZARDS:

- Before refueling the generator, turn it off and let it cool. Fuel spilled on hot engine parts could ignite.
- Always store fuel outside of living areas in properly labelled fuel storage containers in a well ventilated building or storage shed.
- Store fuel away from the generator or any fuel-burning or heat-producing appliance.

