



Portable generators can be very helpful to consumers during outages, but we urge our members to follow these safety guidelines when using portable generators:

Note: If you are going to connect the generator to your home electric system we highly recommend that you consult an electrician before installation.

- 1. Never connect a generator directly to your home's wiring.**
This can cause backfeeding along power lines and electrocute anyone coming in contact with them, including line workers making repairs.
- 2. Never plug a generator into a regular household outlet.**
This can also cause backfeeding and pose an electrocution risk to utility workers and others served by the same utility transformer.
- 3. Always plug appliances directly into generators.**
Connecting the generator to your home's circuits or wiring must be done by a qualified, licensed electrician who will install a transfer switch to prevent backfeeding.
- 4. Use heavy-duty, outdoor-rated extension cords.**
Make sure extension cords are free of cuts or tears and the plug has all three prongs. Overloaded cords can cause fires or equipment damage.
- 5. Ensure your generator is properly grounded.**
- 6. Never overload a generator.**
A portable generator should be used only when necessary and only to power essential equipment or appliances. Never exceed the rated capacity of your generator. Always start your largest electric motor first, then plug in other items one at a time.
- 7. Turn off all equipment powered by the generator before shutting down the generator.**
- 8. Keep the generator dry.**
Operate it on a dry surface under an open structure. Never operate indoors — protect yourself from carbon monoxide poisoning
- 9. Always have a fully charged fire extinguisher nearby.**
- 10. Never fuel a generator while it is operating.**
- 11. Read and adhere to the manufacturer's instructions for safe operation.**
Never cut corners when it comes to safety.
- 12. Keep plenty of gas on hand to run the generator.**
- 13. Keep your generator fit year round by checking the oil and running it 30 minutes each month.**

If you use a portable generator, make sure you know what loads it can handle, including start-up wattage. If you connect the generator to the household circuit, you must have a double-pole, double throw transfer switch installed between the generator and outside power, or the "backfeed" could seriously harm or kill utility line workers.