

GENERATOR SAFETY

A portable generator can help restore life to normal during emergencies; however they may pose a serious safety hazard if not used and installed according to the manufacturer's instructions.

If you own and operate a generator, you are responsible for making sure that electricity from your unit cannot "backfeed," or flow into utility power lines. For safety's sake, be sure to use your generator correctly. If you don't, you risk damaging your property and endangering your life and the lives of utility line workers who may be working on power lines some distance from your home.

The connection must isolate the generator power from utility power and must comply with all applicable laws and electrical codes.

If misused, a generator produces enough electric power to cause a serious shock or electrocution. Using a generator or electrical appliance in wet conditions could result in electrocution. It is very important to keep the generator dry.



The exhaust systems get hot enough to ignite some materials. Keep the generator at least three feet away from buildings and other equipment during operation. Keep flammable materials away from the generator. The muffler becomes very hot during operation and stays hot for a while after the generator has been shut down. Do not touch the muffler while it is hot. Do not smoke where the generator is refueled. Refuel in a well-ventilated area with the engine stopped. Make sure any spilled fuel is wiped up before starting the generator, as the fuel vapors are extremely flammable.

Exhaust contains poisonous carbon monoxide, a colorless and odorless gas. Breathing exhaust can result in loss of consciousness and may lead to death. Adequate ventilation is required when operating your generator. Never operate your generator inside a building (this includes a garage). You can't trust your senses for protection from carbon monoxide; this deadly gas is invisible and odorless. When buying a generator, also buy a battery-operated carbon monoxide alarm. It works like a smoke alarm, sounding an alert if carbon monoxide levels become dangerous.

It is the operator's responsibility to ensure that all who operate the generator receive proper instruction, including how to quickly stop the generator in case of an emergency.